

# Civil Service top grades to be cut by 10%

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## Senior secretaries vulnerable

Senior secretaries in the Civil Service are to be cut by 10 per cent. The most vulnerable will be senior secretaries because the Government is considering abolishing that grade, but secretaries will not be excluded.



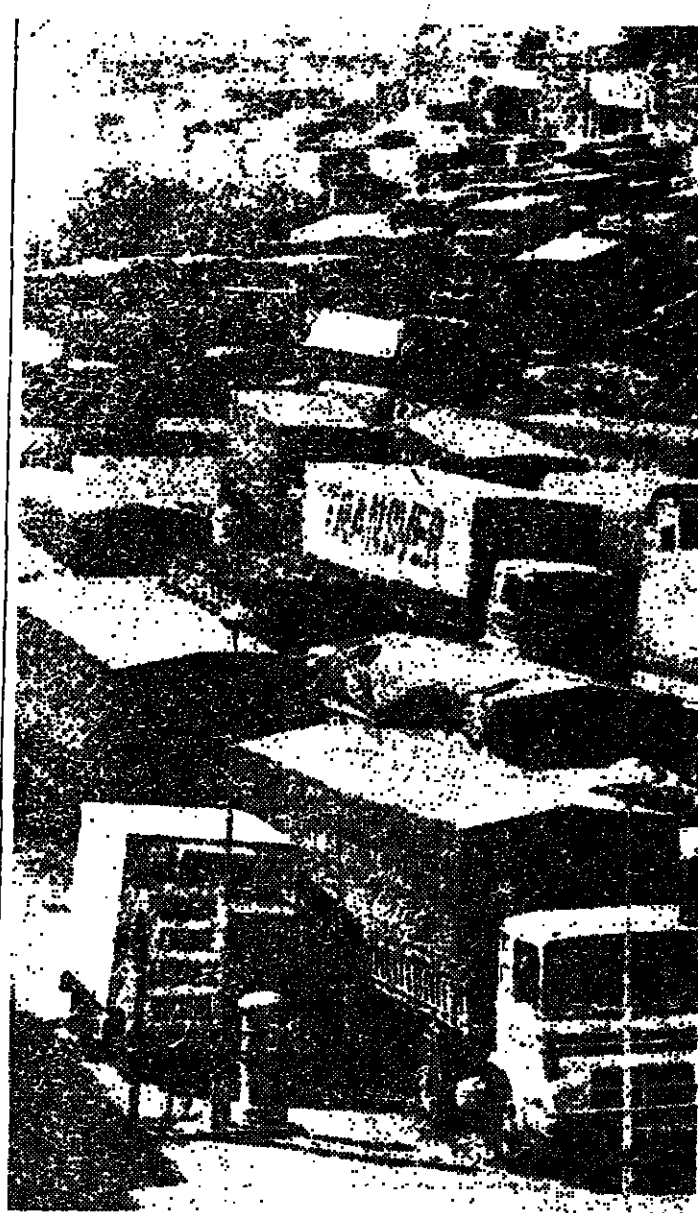
# Ferranti will stay in British ownership

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster

Because of the importance of Ferranti Ltd as an United Kingdom defence contractor, the company will not be sold to foreign interests.

The House approved the sale of the board's holding in Ferranti as soon as practicable, having regard to the interests of the company and the taxpayer, by 205 votes to 239, a Government majority of 66.

The Opposition motion urging retention of the NEB holding was rejected by 307 to 440, a Government majority of 67.



About 1,500 Spanish lorries gathered in La Junquera, on the Franco-Spanish border, blocking traffic

# Support for Spanish lorries grows

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid, June 18

The danger of a collapse of international road transport on the Continent was raised here today when lorry drivers' organizations in Belgium, Italy and Switzerland indicated willingness to join the blockade.

The trouble began on Monday when French farmers destroyed nine Spanish lorries near Perpignan. Yesterday demonstrators in the French town of Tarascon attacked a train carrying Spanish produce, destroying the contents in protest against its importation.

Señor Marcelino Ordoña, the Spanish Foreign Minister, took up the matter here today with the French ambassador, but by late afternoon the meeting had not produced any immediate prospect of a solution.

# Israelis seal up Arab homes with cement

From Christopher Walker  
Nablus, June 18

Three large and poor Arab families including more than 20 children and a set of Jewish grandparents have been deliberately rendered homeless by the Israeli military Government because a teenage youth from each is suspected of involvement in a fire-bomb attack against an Israeli vehicle.

The forced evictions took place nearly four weeks ago but have so far received little publicity. They were carried out under the same British-ordered emergency regulations used last month to banish two other Palestinian families to an abandoned refugee camp.

Every entrance door and window was filled with the blocks and concrete, and where possible electricity and water were disconnected. In some cases, the Palestinians' alleys, furniture and quantities of food were left inside the homes.

Filed in the dusty yards were stacks of household cooking appliances and cheap furniture, some of it damaged during the eviction. The only water was contained in an unhygienic tin can.

# No mercy threat by South Africa as death toll mounts

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, June 18

As the death toll continued to rise today after the worst outbreak of township violence since the Soweto unrest four years ago, the South African Government said it would take "relentless action" against what were described as "violent, hoodlump elements".

No official figure for the number of people who died during last night's rioting in the Coloured townships of Cape Town has been given. But according to a survey carried out at hospitals by the Cape Times newspaper, the figure was in excess of 40 with more than 200 others injured.

This figure may be exceeded as more shooting was heard in some townships this evening. Both police and Coloured leaders were anticipating another night of violence.

Most of the deaths occurred in two working class Coloured townships called Elsies River and Retreat, situated in the great flat expanse of land behind Table Mountain where most of the city's half million Coloureds are thought to live.

The violence does seem to have started spontaneously and to have spread quickly as bands of hoodlums, known as "skollies", took advantage of the situation to loot shops and set fire to cars and trucks.

At first, the police appeared to try to avoid using their weapons against the rioters. But their patience, already stretched after the deaths of one of their colleagues last week, soon gave way and they began using shotguns and automatic weapons.

According to eyewitnesses the police at one stage were going around the streets firing at random. One resident of Elsies River told how police discharged from a truck in front of his house and started shooting wildly into the darkened street in front of them.

The screams that followed the shooting made it clear that some of their shots had found targets.

Today, General Michael Gedenhuys, Commissioner of Police, said the police would shoot to kill in cases of arson or looting and would no longer use bird shot or plastic or rubber bullets. He claimed that those who died had been involved in arson and looting.

the unrest on criminal elements, saying the violence had nothing to do with the boycotts of schools, buses, and butchers' shops which has been taking place in the Cape. "We are concerned on one with criminal, 'skollie' elements and we will act relentlessly against them", he said.

There seems to be little doubt from the evidence so far that young hoodlums were, to some considerable extent, responsible for the latest upsurge of violence. "I have to admit it, the Minister is right, the thugs have taken over", said one Coloured commentator who asked to remain anonymous but who is usually unopinioned in his criticism of the South African Government.

They just seem to have declared war on the police", he said.

This commentator pointed out that Elsies River and Retreat were both townships where the crime rate was higher than in other parts of the city which, according to a recent survey, has the worst crime rate in the Western world. The townships also suffered from a high level of unemployment which in parts of the western Cape is as high as 25 per cent.

Equally, however, there seems little doubt that the rioters were, in their own violent way, expressing the bitterness and anger of the Coloured community against a system that makes them second class citizens.

Dr Allan Boesak, a leading Coloured theologian and one of the most outspoken Coloured leaders, felt the basic cause of the violence was a realization that the Government had failed yet again during the session of Parliament which has just ended to take any action to redress Coloured grievances.

Dr Boesak said he had no doubt that the violence was linked to the series of boycotts and other forms of protest in the Cape in recent weeks.

Highway strewn with rocks and debris

The streets where police had opened fire last night on groups of stone-throwing, screaming rioters resembled a battlefield today. Supermarkets, cafés, and liquor stores were looted and severely damaged in the main trouble areas.

About £2m worth of damage was done to a knitting factory which was set on fire.

The main highway linking Cape Town with the city's international airport was strewn with rocks and debris after groups of rioters had stoned passing vehicles last night. The road was blocked off by police during the height of the violence.

Elsewhere in South Africa the situation was generally calm although police used tear gas to disperse demonstrators on the campus of the (Indian) University of Durban-Westville in Natal.

# Afghanistan led by

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# Labour inquiry rift widens

The main left and right-wing extra-parliamentary groups in the Labour Party registered their dissatisfaction with the results of last weekend's commission of inquiry by issuing strongly worded statements calling for the reversal of its decisions. The Campaign for Labour Victory was particularly annoyed that the commission had not made any recommendations about reforming the left-wing dominated National Executive Committee. From the other side of the party the Rank and File Mobilizing Committee for Labour Democracy called on the national executive to submit a minority report opposing some of the proposals. Page 2

# Air fares criticized

Governments and their civil aviation administrations seem to have conspired to prevent European citizens traveling between European cities by air. The fact that according to a report by a House of Lords select committee, consumers' interests seemed to have been sacrificed to the prestige of national airlines. Page 5

# S Korean gives up £18m

The leader of South Korea's majority Democratic Republican Party, Mr Kim Jong Pil, has agreed to give his £18m personal fortune to the state to avoid prosecution for corruption, the Martial Law Command said in Seoul. Eight other senior officials and politicians are taking similar action and vowed not to hold any public office. Page 9

# Iraq scientist murdered

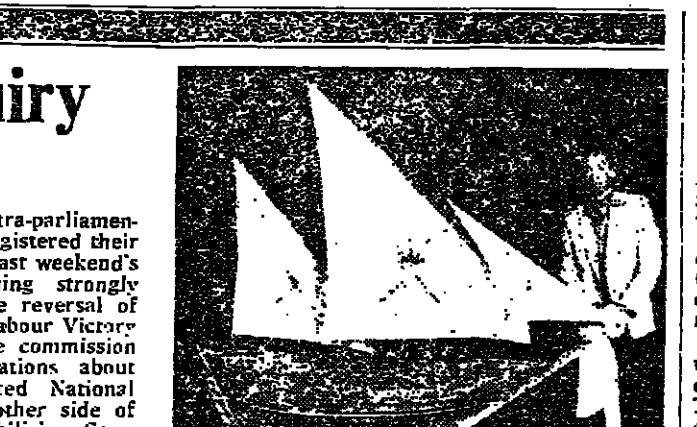
An Egyptian-born nuclear physicist, who was the chief contact between Iraq and France in the development of a nuclear research centre near Baghdad, has been murdered in a Paris hotel. Some experts believe the centre could have built an atomic bomb comparable to the one dropped on Hiroshima. Page 6

# Iran 'coup plot' claimed

An Iranian newspaper has published what it claims is evidence of a "coup plot" to overthrow President Bani-Sadr. It has named Mr Hassan Ayat, a parliamentary deputy and leading member of the Islamic Republican Party as the man behind the plot. Page 8

# MPs injured at funeral

At least seven Turkish MPs were wounded when they were attacked by right-wing militants during the funeral of a murdered navy official. Stones were thrown as Mr Bulent Ecevit, the opposition leader, ended a speech. Page 8



Modern Sinbad: Mr Timothy Severin, aged 38, with a model of the Omani ship in which he hopes to trace the legendary voyage of Sinbad the Sailor. The wooden vessel is covered with oxhide and bound with coconut rope in the style of the old Arab trading vessels. His eight-month trip from Oman to China starts in November. Page 2

# Belgium through to final

Belgium held Italy to a goalless draw for the final there on Sunday against West Germany. Although England beat Spain 2-1 in Naples Italy, with one point more, will meet Czechoslovakia in the play-off for third place on Saturday. Page 12

# Scientists' ban stays

The Home Office disputed a claim by the Church of Scientology that a ban on the admission to Britain of its foreign members had ended. The claim was made after Baroness Edith von Thungen-Reichenbach, a member, was allowed into the country after being interviewed by immigration officers. Page 4

# Irish politics: New grouping embracing politicians in both Ulster and the Republic is set for an autumn launching

Nuclear power: Mr Wedgwood Benn tells select committee that the public is concerned about the lack of information on vital decisions. 6

EEC budget: A draft of legislation required to make refunds to Britain is to be considered by Community member states today at ambassador level. 7

Kampuchean refugees: More than 250 Khmer Rouge fighters cross into Thailand to greet the first group of their comrades to return home. 9

Covent Garden: Three-page Special Report to mark today's opening of the market. 23-25

Classified advertisements: Appointments, page 33, 34; La creme de la creme, 33; Personal, 34-36

Timeliness on the forthcoming closure of the Concert, steelworks Business News, pages 26-32

Stock Markets: Glis saw further heavy demand from foreign buyers and institutions which eventually spilled over into equities. The FT Index closed 41.1 up at 43.1

Financial Editor: Tesco checked: Westland Aircraft flying higher still. Business features: David Blake in Economic Notebook on why economists cannot please everyone

Books: 22, Engagements 11, Parliament 16, Theatres, etc 14, 15

Features: 26-32, 11, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

# Bank supports call to reduce real earnings

By John Whitmore  
Financial Correspondent

The Bank of England yesterday lent strong support to the Government's call for significantly lower settlements in the next pay round.

Earlier yesterday the Government had published another disturbing set of figures on pay. These showed that average earnings in April were running 21.2 per cent higher than in April 1979. Officials expect the figures for May to be higher still.

In the latest edition of its Quarterly Bulletin the Bank stresses that wage increases in the next pay round should be well below those in the present one. The Bank recognizes this will entail a fall in real earnings, but it says there should be no presumption that real wages can go on rising every year.

The Bulletin makes no attempt to set any target for pay, but it suggests that to get inflation down to a reasonable level might entail a reversal in the short term of the 5 per cent rise in real earnings (discounting the June 1979 indirect tax increases) seen over the past two years.

The Bank is not advocating any form of incomes policy. Rather, the Bulletin stresses the need for pay demands to adapt to restrictive monetary conditions.

In spite of yesterday's April earnings figures, the Bank says there are some indications that the weakening of demand in the economy is starting to exercise a degree of restraint on wage increases, particularly in manufacturing.

It predicts that restraint will become stronger during the next pay round. Earnings will be appreciably less than the increase in prices—significantly reduced as that will be once the direct effect of summer indirect tax increases has all out of the year-on-year comparison.

Such a development, the Bank says, could lead to a substantial reduction in the rate of inflation in 1981. But the anti-inflation battle must remain the Government's top economic priority. Until there are signs that the underlying rate of inflation is being reduced significantly it would be inappropriate to relax economic policies or allow any large fall in interest rates.

A high rate of inflation combined with restrictive policies meant that the recession was likely to be deeper in the United Kingdom than elsewhere.

The Bulletin states that our international competitiveness deteriorated by about 20 per cent during 1979. Between the final quarter of 1976 and the first quarter of 1980 that deterioration has been of the order of 40 per cent.

This is reflected not simply in the problems facing our exporters but also in the vast increase in import penetration. Of a decrease of about 10 per cent in 1975 prices in total final expenditure in the United Kingdom between 1978 and 1979, imports accounted for £3,500m, leaving little growth in domestic output.

In the short term, fiscal and monetary policy had to be directed first of all to reducing inflation. Later, the Government's North Sea oil revenue would be available to help ease the problems facing industry.

Earnings accelerate, page 27

Mr Heath presents action areas for Venice summit

By Roger Berthoud  
Mr Edward Heath, the former Conservative Prime Minister, has sent 14 "politically and technically feasible" proposals for helping the world's poorest countries to the heads of the seven Western governments taking part in this weekend's Venice summit (text, page 11).

The proposals are the fruit of discussions Mr Heath has held with international organizations and heads of government in both the industrialized "North" and developing "South" since the Brandt Commission, of which he was a member, reported early this year.

Mr Heath's suggestions cover four areas: international payments, energy food and protectionism. In his covering letter

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## HOME NEWS

## Home Office says ban on overseas Scientologists to stay

A claim by the Church of Scientology that a ban on the admission of foreign Scientologists to Britain was finished was disputed by the Home Office yesterday.

The claim was made after Baroness Edith von Thun und Hohenstein, a Scientist, was allowed into the country after being interviewed by immigration officials when she arrived on a flight from Munich.

She was to attend a dinner at the House of Commons last night with three MPs who took up her case: Mr Peter Rost, the Conservative member for Derbyshire, South East; Mr David Soddard, Labour member for Swindon; and Mr Ronald Brown, Labour member for Edinburgh, Leith.

Mr Peter Thompson, a Scientology official, claimed that the ban, imposed 12 years ago, was finished, and that all that remained was for the Home Office to announce its official end.

The Home Office said: "The ban is applicable where the intending entrant is thought to be studying or working at a Scientology institution or to be promoting Scientology or otherwise engaging in its business. In the case of the baroness it was not felt she was doing these things and she had also recently successfully appealed against an earlier refusal of admission. A review of it is going on. It was imposed in 1968 when

Mr Kenneth Robinson, then Minister of Health, described Scientology as a "socially harmful pseudo-philosophical cult".

Last September the baroness was stopped by immigration officers at Gatwick airport and sent back to Germany when she said she would be attending a Scientology service in Britain.

Ninety-two MPs signed a motion condemning the ban, and an appeal against the decision was upheld two weeks ago. Between 200 and 300 foreign Scientologists a year would want to come to Britain to study if the ban was lifted, Scientology organizers said yesterday (a Staff Reporter writes).

At a press conference held at the House of Commons to celebrate the entry of the baroness, a leading Scientist from Germany, Mr Thompson said that many would want to come because they regarded the church's East Grinstead headquarters as a "kind of Mecca".

On Sunday 13 French students wanting to take a seminar in Scientology had come into the country.

Mr Brown said he would write to the Home Office to state a statement of its position. "I am not a Scientist but I am concerned about this as a human rights issue. I believe individuals have a right to come to this country and practice a religious faith in their own way."

## Law student sues council for refusing a grant

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

A law student has issued a writ against Oxfordshire County Council after being refused a grant to complete his required one-year postgraduate course of vocational training in law. The writ is due to be heard in the High Court on June 27.

As part of its spending cuts, Oxfordshire decided in March not to give any further discretionary awards to post-graduates on vocational courses. Last year, 62 postgraduates, including 27 law students, received grants from the county council.

Mr James Sleight, one of the law students who had applied for a postgraduate award this year, claims that the county council has acted illegally because it has improperly "fettered its statutory discretion" by adopting an inflexible policy which prevented it from considering certain categories of applications for grants.

The Court of Appeal ruled in 1971 in an action between the British Oxygen Company and the Board of Trade: "The general rule is that anyone who has to exercise the statutory discretion must not shut his eyes to the application."

In a circular sent out in September 1977, the Department of Education and Science advised local authorities that, although only the courts could decide the matter authoritatively, it was the Secretary of State's view that a local authority could not properly exclude whole categories of applicants.

A local authority could adopt certain policies on discretionary awards but it must allow individual applications which sought to show special circumstances, or which demonstrated that there should be an exception to the policy.

A blanket refusal to award grants to postgraduates could clearly be seen as the exclusion of a whole category of otherwise eligible applicants. At a meeting last week Oxfordshire's education committee agreed to amend its policy to say that it would not normally make discretionary awards to postgraduate students, unless exceptional circumstances could be established.

Oxfordshire and many other local education authorities have been unhappy for some time about the present distinction between discretionary and mandatory awards. The Government reimburses a local authority for 90 per cent of the cost of a mandatory award, but contributes nothing to a discretionary award other than through the rate support grant.

Discretionary awards have proved an easy target for spending cuts in many authorities.



Handbags, purses and binocular cases being searched by security staff at the entrance to the royal enclosure on the second day of Royal Ascot, yesterday.

## Asylum plea over airman is adjourned

From Our Correspondent  
Much Wenlock, Shropshire

Magistrates at Much Wenlock, Shropshire, were told yesterday that the fate of a Kenyan airman who deserted for the love of his British wife lies with the Home Secretary. Mr William Whitelaw has to decide whether there are grounds for offering political asylum to Mr Owino Okwiri, aged 23. The Kenyan Government is seeking his extradition under the Visiting Forces Act, 1952.

The magistrates adjourned the case for eight days to await Mr Whitelaw's decision.

Mr Okwiri has said that he may be shot if he is returned home because it is his second offence of desertion. Originally he failed to return to Kenya after marrying. The Kenyan authorities have refused to grant his wife a permanent visa.

He was arrested for the first desertion and returned to Kenya where he was put in prison, where he says he was beaten regularly.

## Doctors accused of stealing from NHS

From Allasse Ferriman  
Health Services Correspondent  
Blackpool

Surgeons and anaesthetists were yesterday accused of stealing expensive National Health Service drugs and supplies for use in private clinics. Delegates at the annual conference of the Confederation of Health Service Employees were told by a union official that a House of Commons inquiry in 1971 showed that anaesthetic drugs, syringes, scalpels and dressings were often stolen by doctors.

Mr Stanley Milne, the Dunce branch secretary, said that the same inquiry discovered that equipment was also being borrowed by doctors for operations in private clinics and that the British Medical Association had admitted that the practice went on.

Mr Milne said: "I have evidence that it is still going on today. The doctors are sheltering behind their coats of integrity and the Government is frightened of having another investigation."

The first inquiry was held by the House of Commons employment and social services sub-committee during the 1970-71 session and Mr Milne said it was time that another investigation was carried out.

The British Medical Association said: "I would strongly refute this kind of attack, and one wonders what kind of evidence there is to make such an accusation. If indeed he has evidence, let him bring it forward."

The conference passed a strongly worded motion attacking the Government for expecting charities to pay an increasing part of health service costs.

Miss Kathryn McGraw, a ward sister from Tameside, Manchester, said: "It is a scandal that nurses are having

to go out with collection boxes to collect money that should be provided by the Government."

Nurses in uniform had recently been out with boxes in a shopping precinct in Ashton-under-Lyne, Manchester, to pay for a kidney dialysis machine and the League of Friends at Tameside General Hospital has been raising money.

"The Government is hacking away at the bricks and mortar of the health service. I do not mind the League of Friends buying the odd television set but they are now paying for essentials."

"It is wrong that patients who have paid their National Insurance contribution should have to rely on charity. The Government should be so proud of hospitals such as the Stoke Mandeville it should be pouring money into them."

A motion to have the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union expelled from the TUC because it had negotiated a private medical scheme for its members, was defeated, but the union restated its opposition to private medicine.

New technology opposed: Hospital workers were urged to resist further extension of new technology in the health service. Mr John Bratton said it could lead to an impersonal, engineering and salvage approach to medical care (the Press Association reports).

Mr Bratton is a lecturer in new technology and an adviser to the confederation.

He told the conference that some members of the medical profession "are critical of the trend in health care which is based on engineering and salvage approach to medical practice without real regard for the social, economic environment which causes ill-health."

## Call for new transport in coalmines

From Ronald Kershaw  
Leeds

The rolling stock used in many mines is obsolete and replacement programmes should be implemented, Mr E. J. H. Nicholas, a senior district inspector of mines and quarries, says in his annual report on the North Yorkshire coalfield to the Health and Safety Executive, published today.

Nine men were killed and 52 seriously injured in 1979, compared with four killed and 53 seriously injured the year before.

Mr Nicholas says that the increase in fatal accidents is regrettable. On underground transport accidents, he says that "as workings extend further from the shafts the extension of man-riding facilities is both desirable and actively encouraged."

"There is, however, a disaster potential in all haulage systems. Vehicles and systems must be installed and maintained to the highest standards."

Obsolete rolling stock contributed to a fire in which the solid type axle of a materials tram failed as it was hauled by a locomotive. The glowing broken end of the axle set fire to grease-soaked timber decking of the tram.

In his report on the South Yorkshire coalfield, Mr J. S. Wilcock, another senior district inspector, says that although there was an improvement in pit safety, more care and attention could result in further reduction of accidents.

Four miners were killed and 60 seriously injured in South Yorkshire compared with nine killed and 70 injured in 1978. A disturbing feature was the increase in dangerous occurrences; arson was suspected as the cause of one underground fire.

## Borough poll majority favours ILEA break

By Our Education  
Correspondent

Nearly three-quarters of adults living in the London borough of Wandsworth favour the council's proposal to break its links with the Inner London Education Authority and to control its own schools, according to an opinion poll published yesterday.

The council posted a questionnaire to 3,200 people in the borough asking whether they agreed or disagreed with the council's policy. Just over half replied, of whom 72 per cent said that they agreed.

The council says that the sample was in line with those used in national polls by Government and industry, and "is reckoned to produce an almost accurate assessment of overall public opinion."

Councillor Christopher Thorne, Conservative leader of the council, said: "I am pleased. This is the voice of the silent majority speaking at last. This is a most significant finding at this time when London schooling is under the

microscope. I think it gives the final answer to those who have heard too much in recent months."

The London branch of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association yesterday described proposals to break up the ILEA as "a plan for educational disaster and madness".

It is seeking urgent talks with Lady Young, Minister of State for Education and Science, to urge her to have the authority. The Government has set up a committee of inquiry into the future of the ILEA, chaired by Lady Young. The committee has agreed to accept submissions from the public up until the end of July. If the committee subsequently decides that substantial changes in the ILEA should be made, the matter will be referred for full public discussion.

The eight main trade unions with members employed by the authority have launched a campaign, under the auspices of the southeast region TUC, to save it.

## Plan for two-tier British nationality opposed by lawyers

By Marcel Berlins  
Legal Correspondent

A government Green Paper proposal to confer "British overseas citizenship" on British subjects who would not qualify for full citizenship is vigorously opposed by Justice, the all-party lawyers' organization, in a report published today. The Green Paper, which appeared in 1977, had suggested a two-tier system of British nationality: British citizenship for those born in the United Kingdom, or having specified close links with it, and British overseas citizenship, which

would not give the right of abode in Britain. A government White Paper is expected in the summer.

Justice says that the latter status "would not always be transmissible and could lead to statelessness for many children. It would leave the holder with an anomalous status, the unfortunate casualty of Empire, in a void as regards his national identity, and swept up into a second-class category of citizenship."

"It would leave an undistributed residue of people around

the world without a definite nationality or right of abode in a particular country—in effect, stateless."

The report recommends that such people should be given a citizenship clearly identifying them with a particular country, for instance, "British citizen (Gibraltar)".

Any change in British nationality law must ensure that no one was left worse off than under the present system, the report says, and that existing racially discriminatory measures and breaches of

international law were removed. The working party claims that the confused state of national law, and the fact that it had become tied up with immigration rules, had brought about an adverse effect on race relations here and abroad, and caused hardship to people whose rights had been arbitrarily removed.

It accepts that the status of the Irish under British nationality law is anomalous, but can see no satisfactory way of changing it.

British Nationality, Justice, 95a Chancery Lane, London WC2, E2.

## Little change in use of small print, report says

By Our Consumer Affairs  
Correspondent

The Office of Fair Trading may recommend that it be made a criminal offence for those who provide services to use small print to claim their right to compensation in the event of death or injury caused by negligence.

Mr Gordon Borrie, the Director-General of Fair Trading, said in his annual report published yesterday that the office was examining the extent to which traders were still using terms and notices made void by the Unfair Contract Terms Act, 1977.

Although most retailers no longer display signs such as "No refunds on sale goods", there appeared to have been little change in the use of sweeping exclusion clauses. Annual Report of the Director General of Fair Trading, 1979 Stationery Office, £4.

## Attack damages door of US Embassy

By Stewart Teudler  
Crime Reporter

A mysterious but mysterious attack was made on the United States Embassy in Grosvenor Square, Mayfair, early yesterday morning when one of the main doors was damaged.

At about 1 am residents in the square reported the sound of what they took to be a shot. When the police investigated they discovered a dent about two inches wide in one of the plate glass doors at the front of the embassy.

A search of the area has failed to reveal a spent bullet or a cartridge. There is no report of anyone seeing or hearing a car driving away after the sound of the shot.

The embassy, like many others in London, is normally guarded by officers from the diplomatic protection group and one was patrolling at the time but saw no sign of attackers.

## 'Deep friend' of IRA man denies bomb plot

An Irishman who allegedly organized the Balcombe Street IRA gang admitted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to being a "very deep" friend of Mr Hugh Doherty, one of the terrorists.

Brian Keenan, aged 39, said in a long statement from the dock that he visited Mr Doherty at a house used as a bomb factory in Crouch Hill, Hornsey, London, in November, 1975, the month before the siege; but fingerprint and handwriting evidence linking him with Crouch Hill, another IRA base at Milton Grove, Stoke Newington, London, and a third at Scarisbrick Drive, Liverpool, was "circumstantial", he said.

Mr Keenan, who was arrested in Belfast last year, denies conspiring between August 15 and December 27, 1975, with the convicted Balcombe Street terrorists, Mr Doherty and Mr Martin O'Connell, Mr Edward

Butler and Mr Harry Duggan, to cause explosions likely to endanger life and possessing firearms with intent to endanger life.

He also pleads not guilty to conspiring in Liverpool with Mr Anthony Clarke to cause explosions likely to endanger life between August 15, 1975, and June 1, 1976, and between May 31, 1976, and February 5, 1977.

Eight people, including Ross McWhirter, the writer, died in the bombings and shootings. "I am not guilty of any conspiracy with anyone to cause any explosions anywhere at any time," Mr Keenan said.

He accepted that it was his wallet, with a false driving licence, which was found at Scarisbrick Drive, and he admitted it was his writing on a partly-completed crossword found at the Liverpool address. The trial was adjourned until today.

## Six years ago, Anneli Ringman had cancer

Anneli was lucky; she's now cured. She was one of the first to receive a new drug, which doctors think could turn out to be our most powerful weapon in the fight against cancer.

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Find out how, tonight on TV Eye.



## TVEYE: Cancer - the new weapon

One-hour special at 8.00 p.m. tonight on ITV



## Mr Whitelaw is urged to resist new drinks law

The rise in Britain's young drinkers was highlighted yesterday by a temperance organization, the United Kingdom Alliance, which opposed calls for licensing laws to be updated.

It said that in 10 years the number of youngsters convicted for drunkenness had quadrupled. In a letter to Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, the alliance said: "Alcohol is a dangerous and addictive drug, and if handled at all should be by persons of maturity."

Recent rioting by English football supporters in Italy showed that young people were incapable of handling alcohol. It urged Mr Whitelaw to reject three recommendations made by the National Union of Licensed Victuallers last month.

The call for children of any age to be allowed on any part of licensed premises would increase the number of drinkers at even earlier ages. A reduction in the legal age of drinking to 16 would lead to 14- and 15-year-olds drinking just as 16 and 17-year-olds did at present.

When the drinking age was lowered in the American state of Illinois, arrests for drunken driving by people between the ages of 15 and 19 rose 20 per cent.

The group also opposed an extension of licensing hours. A report from a committee of the Royal College of Psychiatrists had said that if the average person drank more, then the number of people damaging themselves would increase.

## Boycott over packed school lunches

From Our Correspondent  
Gloucester

School canteen staff in Gloucestershire are to boycott children who take packed lunches rather than paying for a 45p school meal.

They say they will refuse to supervise them, provide them with drinks or clean up after them. The staff, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union and General Municipal Workers' Union, fear their jobs are endangered.

## Comedian recovering

Mr Spike Milligan, aged 62, the comedian, was recovering at home in London yesterday after cutting short his Hong Kong tour because of what he said was exhaustion.

## Government breaks la precedent farmer sa

By John Withrow

The Government is to sell land bought up compulsorily during the Second World War in original owner, as Mr John Smith, a former MP whose farm lived on farmland Waltham, Berkshire, years.

He has attempted fully to repurchase Government family land was turned into an field. The property used as a civil airfield 1953.

The disclosure of a recent decision by Mr Heseltine, Secretary of the Environment, to the disposal of a property after the George Allen and Unwin company chase their Bloomsbury, London from the a.

The publishers cited precedent of Criche Down which established a requisitioned land longer required by a man it should be of original owner at a value.

Mr Heseltine fine to sell them at privately, but the C has emphasized that an exceptional case the Criche Down applied only to a land.

That, Mr Smith said, his land at White Criche Down.

The Government, rationed 175 acres of land, understanding that use it would be of to the family. But said that when the 1973 the Department Environment, per private company, less part of the war, to remain the site.

He has since been back about 80 acres on the condition the solely for agriculture and that he cannot thing which would with the neighbour.

"They have bent favour of a private have spent tens of it pounds trying to get if I was not so per quite well off I have got my way", said.

The Property Agency, which is for the site, said would be able to a property at a pub. But it would not be privately.

Mr Smith said Criche Down had been unable to do our backs". He said first restriction to land that would frantically decided to offer it to government department agreeing to sell original owner.



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Annual Report available on request.

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**pean governments accused of  
piring to prevent people  
g at fares they can afford**

## kong welcomes route competition

## g raped mother in age, court is told

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George Martin Hill,  
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; William Alexan-  
aged 22, a fitter  
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apprentice.

## Paroled more lifers last year

ber of prisoners licence from life detention during y's pleasure rose 978 to 21 last year, Board for Scotland terday.

introduction of the m in 1968 to the year 113 persons in have been re- tained of them have ed to custody, in- , who have been more than one d three who were released again.

rd is considering are serving life t prisoners detained Majesty's pleasure. re were referred to in 1979 compared in 1978. Of such

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With eight other  
members of the Barrow and  
Cumbria Action Group, they  
climbed from the dockside in  
a crane boarded the crane.  
They asked themselves to  
be called in after  
Wilkinson, aged 34,  
co-ordinator of the  
conservation group,  
said Duncan, aged 24,  
street, Barrow, threw  
keys into the water.  
The waste is destined  
for storage at Windscale,

## Contamination found on nuclear flask

From Our Correspondent  
Weymouth

Nuclear contamination was discovered at the Winfrith atomic energy research establishment in Dorset earlier this year, a report published yesterday.

The report, by the Government's Health and Safety Executive, said an irradiated fuel element, which had been stored in an area of radioactive contamination on its surface at levels above the maximum permitted for transportation,

was found to have leaked by rail from the advanced gas-cooled reactor at Hinton, Strathclyde, on February 11.

It reported that second such incident occurred in 1972, when a fuel element was damaged and leaked, but there was said to be no hazard to persons.

# Peace Prize winner fined for outburst at airport

Mr Clive Moore, for the prosecution, said that Mrs Williams, cofounder of the Ulster Peace Movement, who lives at Orchardville Gardens, Finadhy, Belfast, was arrested after trying to push past a police officer to board a Belfast shuttle flight. She had arrived at Heathrow from North America. She was told the gates were closed and no other passengers were allowed through. A supervisor was called after Mrs Williams pleaded with the check-in girl to be allowed through.

“Mrs Williams now, became extremely agitated and upset and started banging her fist on the desk.” She explained who she was, and when asked if there was anyone she wished to see, she said, “Best, she made an obscene reply.

There was more obscene language and Mrs Williams was arrested. She had tried to push past an officer to get through the shuttle gate, but there were legal technicalities as to whether the officer was acting in the course of his duty.

Mrs Williams had been taken to Heathrow police station and then to Uxbridge court, but she



had refused to go up to the court from the cell below.

Miss Sheron Bedell-Pearce, for Mrs Williams, said she had been travelling in Canada and North America since April 12 giving talks on behalf of Amnesty International. She had always made the connecting flight before and her children were due to meet her in Belfast.

The one thought dominating her mind was that she had to get on the plane. "She became disdraught and behaved in a way that was utterly uncharacteristic from her normal be-

## Bill may lead to cuts in rural bus services

**By Michael Baily**  
**Transport Correspondent**

Government policy could mean withdrawal of many bus services of value to the public. Lord Shepherd, chairman of the state-owned National Bus Company (NBC), said yesterday.

The company, which runs most of Britain's cross-country bus services, could find its ability to cross-subsidise services on unprofitable rural routes severely diminished.

New competition on the profitable routes would arise from the dismantling of licensing restrictions in the Transport Bill passing through Parliament.

He gave a warning at a press conference in London that the new legislation could alter the economic balance of operations based on half a century's experience. The licensing system had existed to safeguard a network of services for the public with the minimum of outside support.

### Local authorities looking to reduce expenditure on bus

## Mercury found in orange

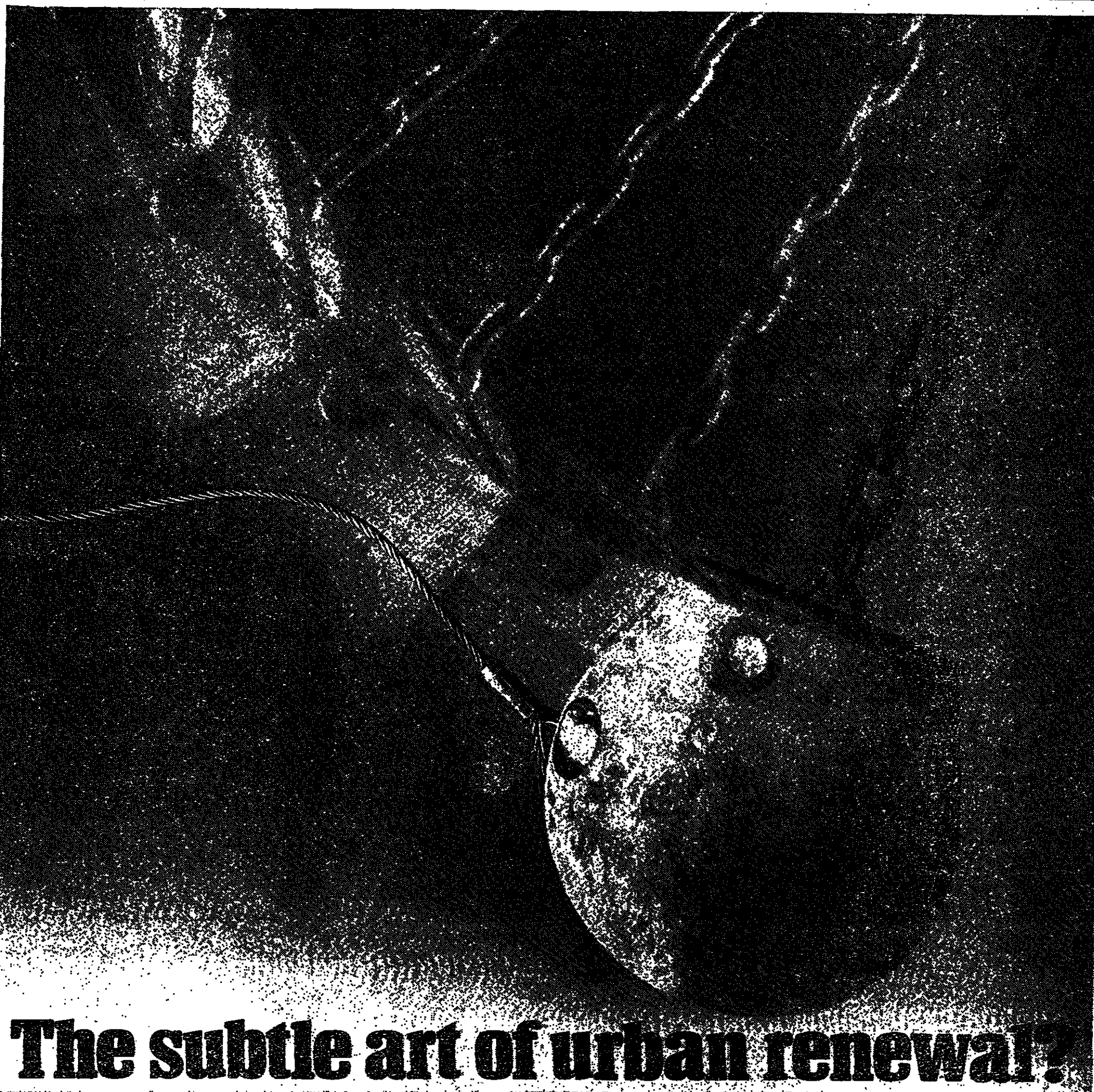
Mercury was found in a Jaffa orange at Dalton-in-Furness, Cumbria, police confirmed yesterday.

They appealed to the public to take extreme care and examine fruit by cutting.

## Clevedon Pier to be preserved

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment has refused to allow the demolition of Clevedon Pier, Avon.

The pier was an important building warranting preservation, the department said.



# The subtle art of urban renewal

**Creating the right sort of impact in any form of urban renewal calls for special skills on the part of all concerned, from the conception to the completion of any such scheme.**

For a construction company especially, the carefully planned rejuvenation of decaying or run-down inner-city areas is always an exciting challenge.

In recent years Taylor Woodrow has been involved in a number of urban renewal projects varying in size from 30 acres at London's St. Katharine's Docks, to the restoration and conversion of the original Central Market building in Covent Garden.

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The Arndale Centre, occupying a 13½-acre site, is now the largest enclosed shopping area in Europe.

Manchester apart, it must be said that not all urban renewal is a simple case of replacing the old with the new. At St. Katharine's Docks, near Tower Bridge, great respect was paid to the original basins and buildings.

For example, an 18th century brewery, since re-named Dickens Inn, has been carefully preserved and restored by jacking up its timber skeleton and winching it to a new site 100 yards away.

These are just some of the many skills employed in successful urban renewal. Perhaps Taylor Woodrow could help solve your particular problem in this, from the human angle, very important field.

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## HOME NEWS

## Public is worried by secrecy on nuclear power, Mr Benn says

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

Without greater disclosure of the information on which decisions about the development of nuclear power were based, there would be a continued lack of public confidence in that source of energy, Mr Wedgwood Benn yesterday told the Commons Select Committee on Energy. He cited several examples to support his argument.

They included the offer when the Shah was in power in Iran to finance the British nuclear industry, provided a decision was made to manufacture the United States type of pressurized water reactor; the secrecy maintained over the theft of uranium from Euratom and over knowledge of a serious nuclear accident in the Soviet Union; the privilege accorded the Central Policy Review Staff of presenting papers directly to the Cabinet, as the only non-ministerial representatives to those meetings; and a fundamental difficulty of a Secretary of State for Energy in obtaining independent advice on nuclear affairs.

Mr Benn said that he believed Britain's energy demand could not be met without a nuclear component. But it should certainly not be done by a crash programme of the scale adopted by the Government, which committed the country to the use of immense resources when there were great uncertainties, and which was based on the pressurized water reactor over which there were questions of safety.

Mr Benn addressed the issue of disclosure because there was parliamentary and public interest in any decision involving billions of pounds of public expenditure with wide industrial and social implications; particularly where such highly sensitive and potentially dangerous technologies were involved.

The only exclusion from disclosure that should be insisted upon would relate to issues of defence and security, and when it might be demonstrated beyond doubt that it would harm

the economic interests of the country, he said.

He believed the origins of nuclear power in the military sphere had led to the habits of secrecy over defence matters being continued in the industrial field.

But there were real difficulties associated with the development of nuclear power that everyone should take seriously. There was not an established method of storing nuclear waste that was certainly safe and effective. There were hazards that might arise from accidents, leaks and natural or man-made catastrophes that could affect nuclear installations.

The safeguards against the proliferation of weapons were little more than a monitoring of the movement of nuclear materials.

Without disclosure the many powerful interests which carried weight with Whitehall would not become known and their effect in influencing the outcome of government decisions could not be studied and assessed, Mr Benn said.

He pointed to the difficulties that he had experienced as a minister in obtaining the necessary information, which he believed should also be publicly known, on which decisions should be based. He said the process he had to devise to open the channels necessary to get important independent advice. It came through actions such as publishing, in the form of the Energy Review, the discussions of the Energy Commission and reports to the department of submissions from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on safety, the Atomic Energy Authority and so forth.

Unless the existence of such information was known, there could be no contribution from interested outsiders. One response to publication of an assessment of papers on proposals for the pressurized water reactor in Britain was from the German reactor manufacturer, Kraftwerk Union, which on a safety ground had modified that type of system.

## Minister offers to visit communities to calm fears

## People near cruise missile sites shocked but accept necessity

By Lucy Hodges

Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, has offered to visit people living near the proposed nuclear missile sites in Berkshire and Cambridgeshire to reassure them and answer their questions.

The Ministry of Defence has been in touch with the district councils of Newbury and Huntingdon with the same suggestion that the minister should talk to residents if it would help to alleviate fears.

The two councils, which are preparing papers on the effects of the cruise missile siting, have yet to decide whether to take up Mr Pym's offer.

Responses from local people have been somewhat muted so far. Most said they were surprised and shocked because the news had been so unexpected.

The Moleworth and Greenham Common Royal Air Force bases have been inactive for a long time and observers had been expecting the missiles to go to the big US Air Force bases which are in daily use.

Mr Anthony Robinson, chairman of the Moleworth and District Environmental Society which was set up seven years ago to oppose a plan to build a nuclear power station on the

airfield, said the Government had mishandled the announcement.

"It came as a bolt out of the blue", he said. "No one has done anything to minimize local speculation and tell us what is involved."

Mr Robinson is particularly concerned about the effect on children. His son aged 10 was distressed by the news and spent the whole of Tuesday evening in tears.

Mr Robinson was not sure he would oppose the siting as fiercely as he did the nuclear power station plan.

"Cruise missiles could help to prevent rather than cause a war", he said. "But it is a bit disconcerting when you have lived in a place so long to have this foisted on you when you thought the military installations locally were being run down."

Mr Thomas Cook, chairman of Huntingdon District Council, said his officers were preparing papers on the implications of the missile siting. One would be on employment. The Ministry of Defence has said 50 jobs will be created for local people and that there will be much building work.

"There is obviously a measure of risk in any military establishment where there are explosives of any kind but, if we are going to defend our country, the Government has to have these military establishments", Mr Cook said.

The watchdog committee set up in Greenham Common three years ago to oppose tanker aircraft being based there have put out a qualified statement saying they were not opposed to cruise missiles subject to certain provisions.

Mrs Lyette Edwell, a committee member, said they wanted security improved so that people could not wander on to the base; they wanted other flying operations at the base curtailed and they wanted to know whose finger would trigger the missiles.

"We feel many people will be very frightened that the nuclear missiles are being put here and think that Newbury will be a prime target for attack", she said.

Mr Brian Thorford, chief executive of Newbury District Council, said that although the siting would bring 100 new jobs with it, it would also mean that in effect the Greenham Common base was reactivated.

## Unbalanced budget at the Garden

By Martin Huckerby  
Music Reporter

The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, has failed to balance its budget this year, despite a plan to raise its seat prices by a fifth to replace two planned opera revivals with cheaper ballet performances.

The grant offered to Covent Garden by the Arts Council for 1980-81 is £7,000,000 which includes money for the Royal Ballet and the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet.

To obtain the agreed grant the company must balance its budget, but it has not managed that, despite a variety of economy measures

## Closer check urged on air pollution from brickworks

By Our Planning Reporter

If planning permission is granted for two new brickworks at Stewarby and Ridgmont, Bedfordshire, a monitoring programme should be undertaken to measure the effect of taller chimneys on ground level concentrations of fluorides, sulphur dioxide and odours.

That is among the recommendations of a report, published yesterday by the Department of the Environment, on air pollution in the Bedfordshire brickfields.

The report, which is to be discussed by a county council com-

mittee today concludes that, on the evidence available, present concentrations are not harmful to human health. But the possible effects on animals and crops are less clear.

The measurement, assessment and abatement of odour emissions is unsatisfactory, it says. That should be a first priority, as it appears that tall chimneys do not ameliorate the effects to the desired degree.

Air Pollution in the Bedfordshire Brickfields, DoE, Directorate of Noise, Clean Air and Waste, Becket House, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1, £3.50.

Letters, page 19

## WEST EUROPE



Saudi King in Germany: King Khalid of Saudi Arabia waving to onlookers yesterday as he boarded a Rhine excursion boat at Bingen with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, and Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister (left). During his state visit, Bonn has offered to provide training German territory for Saudi Arabia in armed forces. The King is paying ministers have had discussions on oil, trade, security, Europe's Middle East policy, crisis and support for Third World to maintain their independence.

## Paris murder of Arab scientist revives atomic project rumours

From Ian Murray

Paris, June 18

The discovery in a Paris hotel room of the battered body of a senior nuclear physicist who was working for Iraq has started a spy alert in France.

The murdered man was Professor Yehia el Meshad, an Egyptian, who had been deeply involved in a French agreement to supply Iraq with a 1,450-tonne franc nuclear research centre.

The centre is nearing completion not far from Baghdad, and it is to be used to train 600 nuclear engineers and technicians using a 70 thermic megawatt reactor powered by enriched uranium. It is due to be ready for use by the start of next year.

Since the contract was signed, with the approval of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna in September, 1975, Professor el Meshad has come under scrutiny as controller of security for nuclear safety.

France agreed to supply two reactors, an Osiris and an Isis, renamed Ta'uz I and Ta'uz II by Iraq. France is also to supply 70 kilograms of uranium enriched to 93 per cent to run the larger Ta'uz I.

In spite of guarantees to the contrary by Iraq and France,

some experts believe that this equipment and fuel would be sufficient for scientists with the knowledge and ability to build an atomic bomb, comparable to the one used at Hiroshima.

The programme has already been seriously delayed by a well-organised bomb attack on the yards of the industrial naval yards at Seyne-sur-Mer in the Var last April. What was described at the time as a commando-style operation succeeded in badly damaging the reactor core for the nuclear reactors only days before they were to be sent to Iraq.

Several anonymous callers claimed responsibility for the raid on behalf of various ecological protection groups. Police were sceptical of these claims because the professionalism of the raid made it unlikely that amateur ecologists could have carried it out.

Iraqi Government accused the Israeli Secret Service, backed by the Central Intelligence Agency, of having carried out the raid. In the United States, *The New York Times* suggested that the French Government had blown up the casings to save itself the

embarrassment of materials for potential weapons. But more than facts came to light. The same problem the police investigate murder of Professor el Meshad.

They know he came June 6 to take a short stay at the French Atomic Commission. They on Friday the left his hotel to buy for his wife.

A guest in a nearby room had told police right he heard what like a woman's cry at the professor's at Saturday afternoon maid, ignoring a "turb" sign on the in and found his body, fully-clothed body, between the twin beds.

His wallet still 1,400 francs and his documents appear to be untouched. Because secret nature of the work, news of his murder was not disclosed for three days.

Whether the murder was or not, Professor el Meshad's death would complicate the Iraqi reactor.

## Border blockade blamed on weather and treachery

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, June 18

The Franco-Spanish frontier blockade continued today, with hundreds of lorries drawn up on either side of the no man's land of the border area while diplomats, union spokesmen, politicians and farmers manoeuvred and fought behind the lines.

In France the causes of the conflict are given as the weather, energy-saving policies, inadequate EEC measures, Spanish subsidies and British and West German treachery. In Spain the cause is seen as selfish French peasant terrorists, condoned in their violent disregard of the law by a government too frightened of their power to censure them.

The threat of cheap Spanish agricultural produce has been weighing heavily on French fruit and vegetable farmers for years.

This year's problems arise from the fact that mild winter and lower greenhouse temperatures have meant that crops have been ripening at the same time as in Spain, producing a huge surplus.

Although France has shut its borders to the Spanish produce, West Germany has not. It has been importing the produce and, say the French, has not even been levying the proper EEC tax. This means that the French farmers cannot sell on an already glutted West German market.

M. Francois Guillaume, president of the French farmers' federation, condemned the burning of Spanish vehicles this

week, "but we understand the producers who see the lorries go by and have to leave their vegetables in the fields".

On the common agricultural policy he said: "The crisis has not been avoided. It has been deferred. England must leave the Community, or a means must be found of leaving her out of the agricultural policy if she decides not to accept the rules."

The Spanish drivers decided yesterday to maintain and even tighten their blockade. The action of farmers late yesterday in stopping a train and emptying Spanish fruit on to the tracks has caused further anger, as has the fact that five of the burnt lorries were carrying industrial goods and cosmetics, which presented no danger to the farmers.

French drivers, in support of their Spanish colleagues, today blocked the roads leading to the market at Perpignan, to punish the farmers, but it is the action of the Spanish drivers which is causing the most chaos.

Goods vehicles were being prevented from crossing the border, as were French registered cars trying to enter Spain. Only private cars with non-French registrations were being allowed through in small convoys, as were all French cars seeking to leave Spain.

In Brittany, for the second day running, hundreds of tons of artichokes were tipped on roads. Farmers said Spanish artichokes were being dumped on the market at subsidised prices which made it impossible for them to sell French artichokes economically.

## Bonn plan to stem flood of immigrants

Bonn, June 18.—The West

German Cabinet approved a plan today aimed at halting the flood of people entering the country under Bonn's liberal political asylum laws, a Government spokesman said.

The measures, which the Government wants Parliament to approve by early next month, include banning those seeking asylum from working during their first 12 months in West Germany and denying them family allowances until their status is officially confirmed.

All travellers from Turkey, Bangladesh and India will require visas under the plan. Herr Armin Gruenewald, the Government spokesman, said the moves were necessary because only 8 per cent of those requesting asylum in West Germany were found to be genuine cases.

He denied, however, suggestions that Bonn wanted to limit the right to asylum of genuine victims of political persecution, enshrined in the West German constitution.—Reuter.

## Dutch MPs vote for oil embargo on South Africa

From Robert Schull

Amsterdam, June 18

More than two thirds of Dutch MPs brushed aside Government objections today and voted for a unilateral Dutch embargo on oil for South Africa.

Of the 49 MPs in the Prime Minister's Christian Democratic Party, 38 voted with the Opposition. The Christian Democrats are the senior members of the centre-right coalition, which maintains a tiny majority of 77 out of the 150 seats in the Lower House.

Mr Andries van Agt's Government had warned Parliament that it had "the greatest possible objections" against the motion, tabled by Mr Jan Nico Scholten a leading Christian Democratic "dissident".

The Government's defeat does not mean that the van Agt Cabinet must automatically resign. It seems likely, however, that the Cabinet will refuse to put the motion into effect. This would probably lead to a motion of censure being tabled which, if passed, would bring the Government down.

It is generally thought that most Christian MPs, who today voted in favour of an oil embargo against the mo- censure.

Mr Christiaan van der Stoep, the Foreign Minister, House that unilateral action would have little as only small amounts of oil are imported from South Africa. Speaker of the House, Mr van der Stoep, said that the EEC par- liament had asked him to Foreign Minister said that EEC countries were not at this time to take measure.

Mr van der Stoep argued that the embargo was detrimental to South Africa for its oil. A majority of MPs, however, said that the imposition of an oil embargo, however, would serve as a "solidarity with the oppressed white population of Africa" and also as a to other Western states.

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 Mozart: Piano Concerto in G major, K. 455  
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 St. Dunstons Church, Fleet Street  
 Friday 7.30 p.m.  
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Herbert Ross on location

## The first Nijinsky past the post

The whitened bones of abandoned projects to film the life of Nijinsky lie in the offices of producers on both sides of the Atlantic. Nureyev has long been interested in the subject; Baryshnikov has certainly considered it; at one time Ken Russell was about to embark on a film biography with Christopher Gable in the lead. But the one person so far to bring plans to fruition is Herbert Ross. His picture *Nijinsky* has its British premiere next Wednesday, a charity gala with the proceeds reasonably enough going to the London Ballet. The development of the film since they happened to the company appearing on screen.

Ross's connexion with ballet began when he was at high school. A touring group engaged him as a super to play the King in *Sleeping Beauty* and he became on his own admission, hooked on the art. Since then he has never been far away from dance, first choreographing musicals on Broadway, going on to create the ballets *Swan Lake*, *Capriccio* and *The Maids*, and marrying Nora Kaye, who happens to be co-producer of *Nijinsky*, when they were both on the road with American Ballet Theatre. Ross's film *The Turning Point* is a couple of years ago, probably brought more people to the ballet than any picture since *The Red Shoes*. Did this lead to *Nijinsky*?

Yes, Harry Saltzman telephoned me shortly after *The Turning Point* had come out and asked me to look at a Nijinsky script. I wasn't too interested at the time, not least because I thought Ken Russell was fairly far advanced on his treatment. But I then reconsidered. The script was unfinished, but it had the opening scene of the film as it now stands, the reunion between Nijinsky and Diaghilev. So I called in Hugh Wheeler

to help me and we got to work.

Hugh Wheeler at the start of his career was rather more famous under his alias of Patrick Quentin as a writer of detective stories. But he has had considerable experience of Broadway, much of it in collaboration with Hal Prince: *A Little Night Music*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Sweeney Todd* and most recently the English adaptation of the Brecht-Weill *Silbersee* at the New York City Opera. Even so his screenplay for *Nijinsky* has come in for a good deal of criticism in America. Herbert Ross is quick to defend him.

"Nijinsky has generally been much better received in the dance world in New York than among the film buffs. I think some of the movie critics were looking for something that was not there. We did not set out to make a filmed biography of Nijinsky—that would rightly be the subject of television documentary—but instead to take the crucial period of his life. The turning point for Nijinsky came when he met Diaghilev, his Russian Ballet on Broadway, and decided that he had to possess him. Hugh and I decided that the core of the film was about greed, the desire to own something, in this particular case it was a dancer, Nijinsky, who was the centre of the struggle between Diaghilev and Diaghilev, rather than an object d'art."

Herbert Ross gestured at some of the ballets in his New York flat, which looks across to the lake in Central Park. The only piece missing in the case which Diaghilev's ballet master, Enrico Cecchetti, used to correct the posture of his dancers. That is the property of Anton Dolin. Gaining access to that stick was, Ross jokingly remarks, the reason why they engaged Dolin to play Cecchetti. The

caring of Alan Bates, who probably gives his finest screen performance since *A King of Learning* in *Nijinsky*, was rather less obvious. Was he first choice?

"No, we began with Marlon Brando and he was very interested in the part. But he would only give us five weeks' shooting time. With the complex location schedule we had that was completely impossible. We were casting at the time of the release of *An Unmarried Woman* and Alan was so successful in it that he was not exactly short of screen offers at the moment we approached him. He was a bit reluctant at first, but when he finally decided to accept he gave us everything. He often used to turn up at the studios looking like an unmade bed, but once on set he is the most generous and professional of actors."

And the engagement of George de la Peña, a little-known dancer, in the title role?

"The obvious choice would have been Baryshnikov. There is no doubt that at the moment Michas is the greatest dancer in the world. But the character we had created would not have been right for him—maybe if I had been smart I would have altered the script. Hugh and I were looking for someone with the androgynous quality of a child, but also with the special sexual allure we were seeking."

"It mustn't be overlooked that Nijinsky at heart was a whore. He has been kept to stage in an America setting. *Unexpected Valley* is between times Ross will fit in the film version of the Havel-Simon-Sager music *They're Playing Our Song*."

I had to decline the offer to stage it on Broadway, because I was filming *Nijinsky*, so it's reasonable enough to make the movie. It's only a two-hander on stage, so I guess we'll open it up a little...

John Higgins

## Applause and cheering for the Netherlands Dance Theatre

## Soldiers' Mass Scheveningen

## John Percival

Less than half way through the year, I can say that I shall count myself very lucky if 1980 brings me any other new ballets better than Jiri Kylian's latest creation for Netherlands Dance Theatre, *Soldiers' Mass*. The whole house on its feet applauding and cheering at the Circus Theatre, Scheveningen, where it was given as part of the Holland Festival.

The ballet marks a further step forward in the style Kylian has been exploring lately. Sady, that can mean beauty and grace, and grace and beauty, but it can also mean a brutal, almost unbearable, physicality. In *Soldiers' Mass*, Kylian has been able to see something but fragments from only one of the dozen or more works he has made since NDT was last in London. It really is absurd, and an indication of how much we are missing artistically because of economic problems, that the company has been unable to come here for five years, apart from visits, one of London's favourites.

During those five years, continuing its practice of trying always to lead in new developments, NDT has acquired an almost entire new repertoire. In the process, the tone of the dancing has become exceptionally keen and flexible. Two new Kylian ballets in 1978 gave a definitive expression to the company's new image: the fast-paced, swirling bravado of *Sinfonietta* (Janacek) and the tormented fervour of the Stravinsky *Symphony of Psalms*. Using another Janacek score, the *Glagolitic Mass*, Kylian last summer combined elements from those two styles in a troubled, sometimes impressive but uneven work. Now, to music by Ravel, he has succeeded in welding the various elements together into a powerfully expressive form.

I do not know any other

young choreographer who uses space so expansively as Kylian. One of his characteristics is to set the whole cast seething to music, so that the stage seems absolutely packed with movement. But he is never interested in massed effects, and another typical Kylian image is episode or more, usually, three or four men breaking away from the others, often with one of them supported by his companions.

An amazing energy is maintained all through the ballet (one vivid memory is of the men, in great leaps across the stage, hanging in the air at an angle, like great birds, yet the climax, by a stroke of theatrical imagination, is almost static. The dancers stand still and for a few moments join the off-stage chorus in their singing; then every man removes his shirt, revealing us of the scorching, muscular flesh beneath the uniform. Finally, at the word "Amen" they all hide their faces in their hands before crumbling to the floor.

Kylian's ballets cover many moods, but there have been occasional masterpieces that they dominate the repertoire too much. The explanation is simple. Far from wanting to turn NDT into a one-man show, he has encouraged new world-class choreographers, with some success in the case of Nils Unger. But few works by aspirants can hold a candle to the masterpieces in the programmes, whereas Kylian's own output has gone from strength to strength.

## LSO/Previn

## Festival Hall

## Noel Goodwin

Half an hour before the London Symphony Orchestra's concert began on Thursday, five of the principal players were in full cry, dispensing Elgar's *Six Promenades* for Wind Quintet in the main foyer. It seemed rather a pointless exercise in what is essentially a busy pedestrian precinct with its adjacent bar. As the orchestra promises two more such appetizers at its next concert, perhaps it might consider moving them when those who want to can listen comfortably.

Radu Lupu was the orchestra's guest. He tried to instill some vitality into the opening movement of Beethoven's *C major piano concerto*, but the orchestra had begun it at its pace and was not to be moved from a comfortable amble. How pianists must thank Beethoven for leaving them stark, staring, and in a word, finished, with his sprightly spirit. The orchestra had performed to respond, even if the accented offbeats that perk it up surprisingly came at something less than second nature.

There was a sober-side approach to the "clock" symphony of Haydn, businesslike rather than bracing, and with scant trace of wit or humour in the phrasing, even with the size of the string ensemble sensibly kept small. Programme readers were reminded that the finale has, with much justification, been called Haydn's greatest symphonic last movement, but such a claim could be questioned on this evidence of an agreeable instrumental exercise and no more.

The numbers of players were duly inflated to the proportions demanded by Richard Strauss for *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, and many and varied were the sounds of individual colour contributed by the several orchestral soloists, as well as a richness of ensemble. I have heard headier, more thoughtful performances but not, I think, one which so resolutely travelled the surface of the music without revealing its imaginative character. The conductor was André Previn.



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Savagery of Tripura  
highlights tensions  
caused by immigration

From Trevor Fishlock  
Delhi, June 18  
The Indian state of Tripura  
is engulfed in misery today and  
tension still runs high. Bodies  
are still being found after last  
week's explosion of savagery,  
bringing the death toll to near 400.  
Up to 200,000 people are  
homeless, many of them hiding  
in terror in the jungles.

For Mrs Gandhi's Govern-  
ment the horrors of Tripura  
serve to underscore the fragile  
and tenuous nature of political  
and community relationships in  
all seven of the states of the  
north-east.

There has been violence and  
disruption in Assam, with  
students running what amounts  
to a rebellion. In Manipur there  
is internecine strife, curfew in  
the capital and security forces  
trying to keep order. Elsewhere  
there is growing tension, insur-  
gency and talk of secession.

And today, Tripura is in a  
state of shock after hundreds  
were clubbed, shot and but-  
chered in an orgy of blood-  
letting. Security forces are still  
fighting extremist tribal groups.  
About 1,000 people have been  
arrested. Meanwhile the home-  
less need food and shelter and  
their position could become  
desperate.

Indian commentators are  
talking of the danger of out-  
right civil war in parts of the  
north-east. Whether that is  
going too far is hard to say. But  
the growing instability and  
bitterness there are  
causing deep anxiety.

The troubles have their roots

in population growth and migra-  
tions on a large scale, in the  
backwardness of the region and  
the people's feeling of being  
neglected by the Government  
in Delhi. Violence and distur-  
bances, and now massacre, are  
part of an outpouring of rage  
and frustration, laced with xeno-  
phobia.

In Assam the agitators are  
demanding the removal of all  
the settlers from Bangladesh,  
Nepal and West Bengal who  
have entered the state since  
1951. The Delhi Government,  
which is moving carefully and  
refusing to be rushed in the  
handling of a delicate and  
potentially dangerous prob-  
lem, thinks the cut-off date  
should be 1971 and is still  
seeking agreement with the  
leaders of the agitation.

In some parts of Tripura  
racial feelings are raw. The  
tribal people feel they have  
been swamped by Bengali im-  
migrants. In the past 30 years  
they have become outnum-  
bered and they now represent  
just over a quarter of the popu-  
lation. Their way of life has  
changed and they have seen the  
settlers, in the space of a  
generation, grow strong and  
influential.

To some it seemed that they  
were witnessing their own ex-  
tinction and resentment seeded  
an extremist movement.

When the "foreigners out"  
cry was raised in Assam it was  
not long before it was taken  
up by the extremists in Tri-  
pura.



A Tripura tribal member, tied to a stair railing by police investigating the massacre in which nearly 400 died.

Kampuchean refugees go home to  
join families or Khmer Rouge

From Neil Kelly  
Taprig, Thailand, June 18  
More than 250 Khmer Rouge  
fighters crossed into Thailand  
today to greet the first group  
of their comrades to return to  
Kampuchea from a Thai refugee  
camp.

The welcoming guerrillas,  
many wearing new green  
Chinese uniforms, left their  
weapons on the Kampuchean  
side of the frontier stream be-  
fore crossing to greet their  
countrymen and women with  
smiles and tears.

Some guerrillas had come  
from a field hospital near by,  
where more than 60 Khmer  
Rouge soldiers are being treated  
for wounds received in recent  
fighting with the Vietnamese  
who are only 12 miles away.

Senior officials and military  
commanders were among those  
welcoming the 225 people going  
home. There were several  
family reunions. The first per-  
son across the border was Mrs  
Sen Yar with her son, who was  
born in Thailand seven months  
ago. Her husband, a guerrilla  
officer, met them and smiled as  
he saw his son for the first  
time.

Most of those returning were  
women and children in search,  
they said, of lost relatives. Some  
of the men said they were going  
back "to kill Vietnamese".

Mr Ungnot An Ser, a farmer,  
aged 25, said he was going back  
to join his family. He had fled  
to Thailand after seeing Viet-  
namese soldiers. Now he was  
ready to fight if he had to. He  
hoped to get his ricefields in  
southern Kampuchea back after  
the Vietnamese left.

About 1,142 Kampuchean  
have returned home from two

camps near the Thai border  
since repatriation began yester-  
day. Some were reluctant to  
leave Thailand. Three women  
said they had not wanted to go  
because their husbands had  
stayed at the Sa Kaeo camp.  
They said their husbands had  
been made Khmer Rouge  
"policemen" to force others  
among the 24,000 people at the  
camp to return to Kampuchea.

David Watts reports from Sa  
Kaeo: The first group of  
returning Kampuchean refugees  
left the camp here this morn-  
ing after a night of hard dis-  
cussion between United Nations  
refugee authorities and the  
Thai Government on the con-  
troversial return programme.

An official said that the  
talks ended at 3 am. Repre-  
sentatives of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Refu-  
gees found themselves in the  
embarrassing position of, in  
effect, cooperating with the  
return of Khmer Rouge fighters  
to Kampuchea, with the possi-  
bility of renewed fighting.

It has become clear over the  
past few days that although the  
repatriation programme from  
Sa Kaeo is voluntary, Khmer  
Rouge intimidation in the  
camp has been such that it is  
almost impossible to detect  
those returning because they  
have been ordered to do so.  
The UNHCR has lodged a com-  
plaint with the Thai authori-  
ties over the holding of a  
political meeting at the camp.

In the absence of an agree-  
ment with the Phnom Penh  
authorities about the returning  
refugees or any guarantee that  
they will not be molested, the  
refugees set off today for an  
uncertain future.

Last night a telegram from

Mr Hun Sen, the Kampuchean  
Foreign Minister, to Mr Poul  
Hartling, the United Nations  
High Commissioner for  
Refugees, demanding that the  
UNHCR stop cooperating with  
the repatriation programme was  
made public. The message said  
that participation could only  
destroy the name of the organi-  
zation because the programme  
was a plot by Peking and  
Washington, aided by Thailand,  
to put Khmer Rouge and Khmer  
Seri fighters into Kampuchea.

"This is an extremely grave  
act of hostility against  
Kampuchea and is a flagrant  
violation of sovereignty by the  
Thai authorities," the message  
said.

Interviews conducted at the  
camp over the past two days  
indicate that a high percentage  
of those planning to return to  
Kampuchea are willing to fight  
or fulfil any role that Angkor,  
the mysterious organization be-  
hind the Khmer Rouge, has for  
them.

Meanwhile, Mr Zia Rizvi, the  
area coordinator for the  
UNHCR, has angrily rejected  
the suggestion that the ques-  
tion of the safe return of the  
refugees should have been discussed  
during his recent visit to Banol.  
He said that the refugees were  
the concern of Thailand and  
Kampuchea.

Mr Rizvi said he hoped that  
there would be no "dramati-  
cally negative response" to the  
UNHCR, has angrily rejected  
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He said that the refugees were  
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## Bowler Stevenson belts six sixes

Clough, Forest's manager, terms with Ponte, club management in Monday, Fritz Jucker, hoppers' coach, said.

If the Forest commit the deal Ponte will fly next week for a medication. Ponte was born in is now a Swiss citizen.

Mr Clough's eye in year when the two sides in a European Cup tie. The English manager





















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Ronald Butt

# The changes that would revitalize Labour's system

Mr Callaghan suffered an unqualified defeat last weekend when Labour's Commission of Inquiry adopted the proposal of the left for the compulsory re-election of MPs, and he was driven into a compromise virtually equivalent to defeat when he agreed to the idea that future leaders of the party should be chosen by an electoral college.

The fact that this second suggestion is a compromise, and is disliked by the left, which wants the leader to be chosen, in effect, by the Conference, should not be allowed to obscure the truth that, so far as the Constitution is concerned (and I mean the British Constitution, not the Labour Party's), it is the proposal for electing a leader outside Parliament that is far the more serious innovation.

In terms of left-right Labour politics, it is true, the compulsory re-election of MPs, which would be used to replace moderates by left-wingers acting as delegates instead of representatives, would probably have the more obvious impact. It would change the face of the Labour Party within 10 years. Yet it is also arguable that the left now barely need re-election, so clever are they at securing the reversion of vacated seats (as we see at Dulwich and thereabouts this week) concentrating their pressures where MPs over 50 years old can be persuaded to retire.

This may somewhat diminish the importance of re-election—and in any case, that is a matter for the Labour Party and for the electorate, which we have to assume is mature enough to be able to recognise any party for what it is and reject what it dislikes.

The concept of the electoral college, however, strikes deeper. The idea that the Labour Party in Parliament, if it had a majority for government, should be obliged to accept as leader someone chosen outside Parliament, who might well not have commanded a majority in the House of Commons if MPs were free to choose, is fundamentally obnoxious to the tradition of representative democracy.

Not the precedent set by the Liberals' electoral college relevant. This requires the leader to be nominated by the MPs or 20 per cent of the parliamentary party, whichever is the less.

What matters is that the historical concept of an interlocking responsibility between Prime Minister, Cabinet colleagues representing all shades of party opinion, and the parliamentary majority (however composed) would be at risk, if parliamentary majority did not wish to support a line of policy on which the Prime Minister insisted, with all the weight of his responsibility to the external body that elected him, what could the parliamentary majority do about it?

If the parliamentary majority refused to support him, and his defeat followed in the Commons, would he have to resign? Presumably. But what if the electoral college re-elected him? If this happened what

would the PLP do? And would he go to the country in the teeth of many of his own parliamentary followers? An infinite number of possible consequences can be imagined—but on almost any reckoning, parliamentary responsibility as we have known it would be the loser.

Of course, for a time such tensions would probably be disguised by some sort of *modus vivendi* between leader and led. In the longer run, the compulsory re-election of MPs (who would become the delegates, like the Prime Minister, of an outside body) would make this still easier. But the responsibility of a Labour Prime Minister to a corporate non-parliamentary body could only damage Parliament—particularly that external body, as pro the manifesto.

Indeed, though this "compromise" over the manifesto does not satisfy the left, which wishes the Conference to have the final say on party policy, it leaves the effective decision with the National Executive Committee and undermines the traditional responsibility of the leader appointed by the parliamentary party.

None of these things, however, are yet determined finally. The news that Mr Terence Duffy intends to cast his million AUEW (Engineering Workers) votes against mandatory re-election could be a straw in the wind signalling some degree of change at the party conference this autumn.

But who knows what will happen? Mr Duffy is also expected to vote against the other decisions at last weekend's meeting of the Commission, but will Mr David Bassett of the GMWU (General and Municipal Workers) who could decide the vote and who was apparently looking for a compromise on mandatory re-election last weekend, despite his union's previous opposition to mandatory re-election, do so?

He may join with Mr Duffy against mandatory re-election, but since he seems to have favoured the electoral college in an electoral college at Bishop's Stortford, it looks as though Labour might well be stuck with that idea, with the college also controlling the manifesto, in some form.

Meanwhile, Labour moderates have achieved a new unity in pouring derision on the proposal. Mr Roy Jenkins's overtures for a new centre party. For some time now, a number of them has argued that if the worst came to the worst, it would be preferable to split the party with a big bang that would also split the unions—and aligning the moderate unions with moderate Labour MPs and so giving a revived moderate Labour Party (minus the uncooperative left) the means to meet its needs, and which Mr Jenkins's centre party would lack.

Mr William Rodgers argued in *The Sunday Times* last week that he did not think that a centre party, standing where the Liberals have stood, would have much appeal to long-standing members of the Labour Party, and said that if the electoral college re-elected him, they should place

themselves firmly on the left, seeking to win traditional Labour voters. No doubt that is indeed where the social democrats ought to be; the weakness of what can be caricatured as an intellectual's drawing-room party is self-evident.

But it would all depend on how the split (if it happened) occurred, and why. If, as some moderates are almost tempted to hope, the Conference were faced with an uncompromising neutralist and unilateralist motion from the left, that would make minds off constitutional questions and concentrate them on the underlining and important questions of policy.

If such a motion were defeated, it could signal a change of political direction for Labour. And if it were not defeated? That could be the signal for a split in which even the moderates might not find themselves so far from Mr Jenkins as they seem today.

Meanwhile, it is absurd that the drive for constitutional change should be the property of the left and directed at the parliamentary party when it is really the National Executive Committee that is in need of reform. A number of unions in their evidence to the Commission of Inquiry made this very clear. "Changes in the structure of the NEC are of the highest importance," said the AUEW. "The basic weakness of the present NEC is that it is dominated by parliamentarians who are in no way representative of the parliamentary party since they are not chosen by the PLP as a whole, but are elected as a result of a 'beauty contest' of the votes of constituency parties, or sit upon the women's section of the trade union section," stated APEX.

Both unions proposed a new NEC of 45 members, one third trade unions, one third MPs and one third activists genuinely elected from the party's grass roots. The NUR also proposed a larger NEC (but of 35 members) on similar lines, while the GMWU suggested a not dissimilar National Council of Labour, leaving the NEC to deal with the day-to-day running of the party.

All these unions show concern about the unrepresentative nature of the NEC and of the unrepresentative constituency parties, with the suggestion that local general management committees, so easily infiltrated, should be replaced by larger constituency party meetings with the right to choose candidates through one-man-one-vote.

This takes the war into the left's camp. If it could succeed, it would revitalize the Labour Party. Unfortunately, the PLP has so far been supine, while Mr Callaghan has positively discouraged any sort of institutional change as though the Labour Party had strained some kind of unalterable perfection. That is an attitude of weakness. It could destroy the existing Labour Party which serves need institutional reform. The only question is from which direction it will come.

There is no point any longer in asking whether Salvador Dali is a charlatan: of course he is a charlatan, and the only question that matters is how far from whether we ought to get cross about him, to which the answer is obviously not, even if only because that is what he would like us to do: is whether, precisely, does his charlatanism lie?

Nor, I think, in his behaviour; or rather, his behaviour is indeed that of a charlatan, but it proves nothing about his work. It is obviously impossible to take Dali seriously as a human being, but he is a painter of exceptional renown, by no means all of it unjustified, and it is by his painting that he must be judged.

From this beginning you will rightly deduce that I have been to see the exhibition Dali retrospective at the Tate and have come to a number of conclusions about it. I do not remember having seen any substantial number of Dali's pictures together before, and certainly not as many as these, and in view of the fact that they are chosen from every period of his active life it is reasonable to estimate his quality and worth as an artist from it, with the reasonable expectation that no compelling new evidence will emerge to necessitate a change of view.

My conclusion, then, is that Dali is a fool, and has never been anything else, and his reputation denotes the triumph of publicity over art. He has established himself by developing an exceptionally acute nose for a headline and what will achieve it, together of course with a considerable skill as a draftsman. Mind you, I was startled to realize that even the latter talent, real though it is, has been over-rated, and in so far as it is genuine ironically serves to emphasize the emptiness of the skillfully-constructed containing line.

What Dali paints, and has always painted, is not art at all, but a series of advertisements that literally—though of course he has always made self-advertisement his goal—but in the sense in which advertising is an edifying commercial purpose, is without aesthetic life; again the lifelessness of Dali's work is emphasized by the high-gloss finish, the meticulous cleanliness of those desert spaces, those Moore-like bouillottes, those flames and phallics, apertures and orifices.

A grand cure for over-estimating the skillful but worthless is to put it alongside the undoubtedly valuable, particularly when we understand what makes the latter what it is. Comparisons, then, certainly never had in Dali's case the effect of eliminating that emotion, for in-



Salvador Dali's 'The Solar Table' (1936)—boundless and bare, the lone and level sands...

## Doubts about Dali's dreams

Dali, there is a kind of truth and conviction, immediately recognizable as the product of an imagination tempered by integrity, the point of it being a search for meaning. No such feeling comes out of a Dali canvas, and after looking at a couple of years of his fully Surrealist works, a thought formulated itself in an odd fashion in my mind: I don't believe Dali ever had any of those dreams.

The third, and most obvious, comparison is unfair to Dali: Picasso. The comparison is unfair because Picasso is so obviously a towering and universal genius that, of course, Dali suffers beside him, as what comparable artist would not? But as well as being unfair, the comparison is instructive, so much of Dali's work overlaps with Picasso's, even in his early Cubist phase, with Picasso's own symbols that Picasso becomes a measure-ment

just of the difference between the two of them, but of D objective worth. It is low.

The fourth comparison is with Miró. Miró, Spaniards, both Catalans, Surrealists, both obsessed with a set of recurring forms, a quality can be compared directly—not to establish kind of league-table (a meaningless exercise at best), but to see what the basic difference between them is, and what can learn from it about it. The answer is instantly overwhelmingly obvious, as the Tate dared to put a re-ful of Miró's in the middle of the Dali exhibition, a feeling of contempt for the mounting would be irresistible. Miró, from an early age, is life, the forms through glow, the warmth is palpable; the constant striving, constant searching, is faith recorded.

There is nothing like this Dali. Nor can his defence maintain that the comparison with Miró is equally unfair. Dali is not interested in seeing the life that Miró tries to reveal, they are not, but if they do it, it is not, for what can be of value in an artist's work-in-trade is lifelessness.

Those bare expanses, those glossy surfaces, those scruffy forms—they reveal the true the tooth of the artist's burst from an inner life, nothing to say that it is of significance or even importance. "Significance" interest are themselves empty, that are foreign to it, it is not strange that he has had many imitators cannot be said to have had influence, for the truth is Dali's work is, in essence, a self against that it fact, even Orwell's famous exhilarating attack on which sprang from a seriously his ludicrous biography, *The Secret Life of Salvador Dali*, and, incidentally, must be regarded the painter consistently.

Which is not to say that Tate was wrong to mount exhibition. Of course a painter who has made such a reputation for his work in so many ways, and in any Dali, though his work is as retrospective, ugly and ultimate, plainly never actually the skill is quite sufficient ensure that, at least, one who has seen it will be of Dali's work will need to see another, and one who has seen it will be that seeing even this one unnecessary. Le Bonheur is no means false masterpiece, but it is alive, and I there hungered long before it on way out of the Tate, and much better in consequence. © Times Newspapers Limited.

## Consett: the final closure of a lifetime

"I've thought about it and thought about it, and I just can't imagine it. I'm 60. All my life the works have loomed over this town. My Dad worked there; his dad before him, as a kid I went to sleep with the sound of those mills running. I just can't imagine this town without a steel works."

The words come in the soft North Durham accent of Martin Carney, the quiet, wizened chairman of the joint trade union committee at British Steel Corporation's Consett works.

For after almost 140 years, Consett is set for closure. Not the partial closure of Corby and Shotton where several thousand jobs have been left in the finishing ends of the plants, but total closure. Almost 4,000 jobs are to go directly, perhaps another 4,000 indirectly, leaving 30-40 per cent unemployment.

In human terms the impact is almost unimaginable though some measure of it can be glimpsed in the way whole families will be put out of work. Martin Carney's wife, brother-in-law, and three sons all work in the plant; his daughter works at BSC Lakenby, and he has lit-

erally more cousins and nephews in the plant than he can count. Almost no-one has any clear idea of what they will do if Consett closes.

Yet from the string of names etched on the iron tombstone of the British steel industry in recent years, works that have seen closure or part closure such as Corby, Shotton, Bilston, East Moors, Ebbw Vale, and now Llanwern and Port Talbot, the local councils believe that Consett is at least one plant that should be reprieved on the grounds of quality, flexibility, cost and the sheer social impact of closure.

BSC last week announced its case for closure based on an excess capacity of 1,000,000 tonnes a year in steel billets. Consett's product, and said the closure would save the corporation £40m a year. Today the committee campaigning to retain the works will challenge the case, quoting leaked confidential figures from BSC's own accountants showing that the

plant could make £7.5m profit this year, and more next year, and quoting American and European studies, and the price of steel on the world market, to argue that Consett is ideally placed to take advantage of the high quality end of the billet market.

Consett, they will argue, has already shown, however briefly, that it can be viable; the effect on the area if it goes will be devastating.

Mr John Carney (no relation), a regional economist at Durham University who has co-ordinated a study on Consett financed by the local authorities, says North-West Durham, within which Consett lies, is already, after Hartlepool, the worst unemployment blackspot in the North. In Derwentside, the worst in the region, unemployment already runs at one in eight, double the national average.

More than 1,000 jobs have vanished in the past three months from other local industries as the recession has started

to bite. If Consett closes, 3,700 jobs will go directly, to be followed by casualties, by another 2,000 in local haulage, railways, and services. Another 1,000 from the Durham coke and pits, local floorpans and limestone works and Tyndess engineering firms.

Apart from the cost in unemployment Mr Carney argues that Consett should remain on its own merits. BSC's declared aim is to cut out their high cost plants and go for low-cost, high-productivity and quality products.

Using BSC's own figures and methods, Consett last year had the lowest level of liquid steel costs within the corporation. It was cheaper to make steel at Consett than anywhere else in BSC using their standard costs.

The plant is also known for its quality and flexibility. The billet mill is highly versatile: small and large orders of differing steels can be switched in and out quickly, and from talking to Consett's customers,

John Carney believes many would look abroad, rather than to BSC's other plants. If Consett's guaranteed quality ceased to be available, it would be a blow to the local paper, "almost as often as it rained". The first week back after the strike, the billet mill broke two records that had stood since 1959 and 1961. John Lee says: "We did what was asked of us, and we are still for the axe."

If the works do close, the costs will be enormous, and the price of finding work even higher.

A meeting with junior ministers in February, the Derwentside and Durham councils put up figures calculating that unemployment benefit to 3,800 workers, plus rent and rate rebates, lost income tax and National Insurance contributions would cost the Government £14.6 million a year. Even allowing for the same loss at Consett as last year, they worked out that the Government would still be more than £5 million out of pocket.

two swimming pools, a theatre, a municipal golf club and a night-club complex that boasts a clutch of bands, clubs and dramatic groups. There signs of confidence in the £250,000 bus station and million private shopping development are rising in town.

Mr Terence Rodgers, executive of the Derwent Valley Council, says: "The closure cannot be regarded anything but a catastrophe for the district. But provided the right sort of help is right amounts there is reason why this closure may bring a tremendous disasterous relations record to an end. The works did not come through. The duty is getting industry come here and see."

Whatever happens, Hodgson says one thing is certain. With unemployment in the North-East already in the region of 15 per cent, the island of unemployment in sea of unemployment.

"If the plant closes not will run away from it. There's nowhere to run to."

Nicholas Timmi

## All Ford and no tax



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## The sinking of another Ark Royal

A last-ditch rear-guard action by a group of ardent preservationists to save that grand old lady of the fleet, the Ark Royal, from the breaker's yard, has been negotiating with these people for nearly two years, and we are still not satisfied that they will be able to come up with the required money," said the MOD's spokesman on the Navy. "We feel it important that any plan to preserve the vessel should be fully in keeping with its past. Do they realize it would cost £100,000 a year just to keep her pointed?"

The two sides do not have long to continue their arguments. Tenders from ship-breakers are already coming in, and offers close at the end of this month. The Navy is anxious to have her away to the breaker's yard during this year's summer towing season.

And besides the fifth Ark Royal, an advanced anti-submarine carrier, is already building on the Tyne.

The real Traven?

Is the mystery of B. Traven, author of *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, finally solved? Will Wyatt, BBC executive-turned-writer, is sure that he has cracked the puzzle which has foxed literary sleuths for half a century.

His book, *The Man who was B. Traven*, published today, traces the origins of the bashful author whose works sold in their millions back to a bit of German territory which is now in Poland. "It is game, set and match," said Wyatt, who

Empson, a former Second Sea Lord. King insists that the project's backers will be able to raise the £13.5m needed to buy, repair and run the ship.

But he said, by a legal technicality, they could not form themselves into a fully-fledged trust until they actually had possession of the hardware they are seeking to preserve.

The Ark Royal's present owners did not die as everyone thought, nor that he was a disguised leper, though they do say the manuscripts were not written by Traven at all but stolen from an American bum.

Body blow

Some members of COHSE, the health service trade union, thought it would be a splendid idea to hold a beauty contest during their annual conference at Blackpool this week, with a £50 first prize to Miss Cohse, the loveliest nurse in all the union.

But they reckoned without the strong feminist group within the union, Susan Rigby, a nursing assistant from Renss-Wye, declared heatedly yesterday: "Women are responsible people and can be trade union delegates. They are degrading us by saying we are things to look at, and are judging us by the size of our boobs instead of by our intelligence."

Faced with the threat of picketing by militant women, the organizers, the union's north-west region, tried to backpedal, saying that it was a personality contest, a fancy dress contest, a mere joke, anything but a body competition. But they failed to make a body contest it was, and it took place at the Imperial Hotel last night. But the organizers did make one important concession in the face of such opposition: they allowed men to compete.

## LONDON DIARY

names Traven as Otto Feige, later to transform himself into leftist journalist Ret Marut, then into Mexican explorer T. Torzvan, and finally into script-writer, Hal Croves.

But already old Traven nuts are rushing to the defences in an effort to protect more romantic solutions to the puzzle. No one actually still claims that Traven was really Jack London, who did not die as everyone thought, nor that he was a disguised leper, though they do say the manuscripts were not written by Traven at all but stolen from an American bum.

Post-dated

An item comes up for auction at Phillips' London saleroom today which might make you feel marginally more kindly disposed towards our own Post Office. It is a letter, written by the leader of the 1935 Everest expedition, then camped on a high Himalayan glacier, to an address in London, and finally delivered nine months later.

Apparently, on their way up the mountain, the British climbers left money for stamps at Gangtok post office in Sikkim; to cover letters sent down by sherpa for posting. Unfortunately the local postmaster appropriated the funds for his own use, and the letter even-

tually arrived bearing an explanation from the local political officer: "Suffered detention in Gangtok post office owing to the postmaster's failure to affix postage stamps, and to forward them in time. The postmaster has been sent to jail for his offence."

The letter is expected to fetch about £100, which is even more than the cost of a first-class stamp.

Incidentally, on the subject of the Post Office, police in Bradford have devised an intriguing plan to deal with bicycle thefts. Cyclists are being urged to have their postcodes painted on the frame, so that the owners of recovered machines can be quickly traced. So far this year 566 cycles have been stolen in Bradford, and 50 unidentified machines are cluttering up the police storeroom. I hope the police are not expecting the Post Office to deliver the recovered post-coded cycles; they will play havoc with the letter-sorting machinery.

Misnomer

What promises to be a keenly honed satire on the present patriarchal reign-in, Downing Street opens at the Theatre Royal in Stratford, east London, this weekend, with all the members of the Cabinet being played by women. A joint production with the Royal Court, it has already run into difficulties over its title, which has now been changed to *A Short Sharp Shock*.

Its original title was *Ditch The Birch*, which had to be dropped because of the deep offence it engendered, not among Conservatives (of whom there are probably not a great number in that part of London) but among militant feminists, who complained loudly to the producers that such a title was

derogatory to women. In spite of its change of name, I am assured that the text of the play remains in savage taste.

Do you recall my tale of Frodo Baggins, lord of the Shire, who thought that his Olympic pin-raising run from John O'Groah had been a colossal effort with the promoters, Watney, and the Moscow fitters and pull out the sponsorship game?

Well, who should walk into the pub the other day but Rob Soames, the Watney chairman, to announce that the Olympic pin-raising effort was a flop, and would be going to the Olympics after a long with 28 prize-winners, one Olympic contest run (dare I say it?) Watneys.

Judge Jean Graham Hall has been having a difficult week. Craydon Crown Court. On Monday she was faced with a woman, empanelled as a juror who said she had so many judgements against young bachelors, shopkeepers and humans, that she could not possibly sit in judgment on any more. The judge sent her away.

Yesterday Judge Hall was faced with a man awaiting trial on burglary charges who was intending to apply for a writ of habeas corpus. The judge, who had been told that the man was a "good" person, said: "I have heard that you are a good person, but I have also heard that you are a bad person. I am not sure which to believe. I am going to let you go, but I am warning you that if you are caught again, I will be very hard on you." The man, who was a "good" person, said: "I am a good person, but I am also a bad person. I am not sure which to believe. I am going to let you go, but I am warning you that if you are caught again, I will be very hard on you." The man, who was a "good" person, said: "I am a good person, but I am also a bad person. I am not sure which to believe. I am going to let you go, but I am warning you that if you are caught again, I will be very hard on you."

Alan Hamilton





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## WAYS TO HELP AFGHANISTAN

eventual fate of Afghanistan be decided principally in Afghanistan itself. If the Russians decide to withdraw, the Islamic Conference will be able to make it easier to offer some kind of diplomatic lifeline. But the Islamic Conference itself will not be able to do this. The cost of remaining in Afghanistan gets high enough to reach the inevitable loss of life that a withdrawal, however small, will bring. The chances that that point be reached look better now than they did a month or two ago. It is almost entirely to the heroic efforts of Afghan people themselves. A series of recent reports from Afghanistan, including of our Middle East correspondent, make it clear that the situation is spreading to larger and larger groups of the population and forcing the Russians to withdraw in more and more areas.

It is highly unlikely that the Russians are yet anywhere giving up. The war is certainly going to escalate further. More and more Russians are going to be killed against the mujahidin. They are going to need more weapons to fight back. The mujahidin are the heavily armed Soviet helicopter gun-which can pursue them up

into their mountain hideouts, flying low enough to fire at them with reasonable accuracy, while its armour protects it from small-arms fire. Against this, heat-seeking surface-to-air missiles can be used, but are relatively easy to deflect by attaching decoy devices to the tail. Probably the most effective, though relatively cumbersome, counter-weapon is the 12.5 or 12.7mm heavy machine-gun, especially if it can be fired from above at a helicopter swooping into a valley. Some of these are relatively easy for the mujahidin to come by, by detaching them from the Soviet-made tanks which they put out of action. But they could certainly do with more.

China would be in a position to supply them. So would America or Israel, from stocks captured in Vietnam and in Arab-Israeli wars. So would quite a few Arab countries. It is probably better to supply Soviet-made models, partly because ammunition for them would be more easily available locally, partly because they will be harder for the Russians to identify positively as coming from outside sources.

The main difficulty is getting them there. In practice this can only be done through Pakistan or Iran. The Russians will be well aware of this and the more the war escalates the more they will be tempted, as occupying

powers always have been, to try to strike at the supply lines across the frontier. Reluctance to alienate revolutionary Iran, or to further damage their already weak position in the Muslim world, may hold them back for a time but probably not for ever. If the pattern of previous guerrilla wars is anything to go by, part of the price in human lives and suffering for an eventual Afghan victory will be paid by the neighbouring countries.

Before we can urge them to accept that price, we should show that we are prepared to accept sacrifices ourselves, by forgoing some of the advantages of Soviet trade. At very least we should stop giving government-subsidized credit to Soviet importers. It is perhaps not generally realized that the Soviet Union is still able to buy goods on credit from OECD countries at a "consensus rate" of 8 1/2 per cent. This compares to a commercial rate for three-month money of 10 per cent in Germany, 12 1/2 per cent in France and 16 1/2 per cent in Britain. In short, consensus is a euphemism for subsidy. It is a moot point at that rate whether we are actually selling goods to the Soviet Union or giving them away. So long as the Soviet aggression continues in Afghanistan subsidized credits are an insult to the bravery of the Afghan people.

## THE BOYLE COMMITTEE NOW REDUNDANT?

next report of the Boyle Committee on top salaries in the public sector is not due to be published before the end of the year. It is already clear, however, that it is causing the meat a major political headache. On the one hand the Government has shown itself reticent to the notion that "forces" should be paid to apply as much as possible to the public sector as to the private, and on the other hand the Government has come somewhat reluctantly to the conclusion that it is a fairer wages and policy in the public sector, particularly where it is itself the employer. It has learned the hard way that it is not to allow the operations of the public sector of the economy to be run on a market basis, or even worse, to be run on a market basis, or even worse, to be run on a market basis.

The effect of the Boyle Committee has been to draw the maximum attention to a dramatic percentage figure for proposed salary increases for an extraordinarily unhomogeneous and very small group of senior and distinguished people, whose only common condition is that they are paid by the state. Since the way in which the Boyle Committee has interpreted its terms of reference has led it to make recommendations of levels of salary increases that are politically unacceptable to governments, the system is in all respects most unsatisfactory. The maximum of ill-will, envy and political embarrassment is created, while at the same time the anomalies and inequities that result from the Government's consequent rejection, or delay, or phasing the Boyle recommendations become increasingly serious.

The Government has not helped its case by the manner and terms of the appointment of the next chairman of the Boyle Committee. The episode provided legitimate ammunition for those who argue that the chairman of nationalized industries are underpaid in terms of the entrepreneurial responsibility that they should be required to carry. The time has come for the Government to accept that the system of the Boyle Committee is the fault. It should be bold and move directly to a new basis of salary settlement.

The main element of such a new system should be that each group of top salary earners should be treated separately. There is no reason why a Field Marshal, a nationalized industry chairman, a judge and a member of parliament should have their salaries settled on the same basic principles each time and many reasons why they should not. The Government should break out of this strait-jacket. Where general factors, including not least the need for a supply of suitable candidates, argues in favour of a substantial increase, the Government should have the courage of its convictions and raise the salaries concerned by the appropriate amount. Where such general factors do not produce a strong argument, in present circumstances the Government should equally have the courage to make salary increases to its top employees that are if necessary below the rate of inflation over the past year. If the Government does not break out in this way it will find itself drawn inexorably into a formal incomes policy for the whole of the public sector and then for the economy as a whole. Such can scarcely be its intention.

as still hangs around his name in Pakistan or President Suharto in Indonesia. Nor does he go in for the socialist theorizing that has hampered General Ne Win in Burma or the Islamic intolerance that has lost support for General Zia in Pakistan. If Bangladesh is going to save itself by its exertions it has more prospect of doing so while President Zia rules. For that reason alone he deserves such assistance and advice as he seeks in his present visit to Britain. Nevertheless, as he has certainly been told in his discussions in the past few days, there is no way out but self-help for a country facing Bangladesh's problems. Where the basic problems are food production and control of population to amount of economic aid from outside can transform the society. That must be done from within. President Zia is certainly doing this with his programme to galvanize village life and concentrate the minds of all the country's 88 million people on the immediate objectives. Increasing food production, reducing illiteracy, spreading birth control and curbing the divisions between landlord and landless or the traditions of a corrupt bureaucracy all too often divert effort

from the Committee's view that the Games in Moscow should be preserved "as a potential instrument for world peace." We believe a boycott would be more likely to further peace. Irrespective of the merits of the argument, however, we deplore the attempt of the committee to make this issue, on which Methodists, as other Christians, are divided, one of church policy. The church should not violate the deeply-held conviction of its many dissenting members by claiming to speak for them all. Like the athletes the individual church member should be allowed to decide in the light of his own judgment and conscience. Within 36 hours of reading your correspondent's report we collected 31 signatures from local Methodist churches on a letter to the new President opposing the proposal. This reaction from grassroots Methodism gives some inkling of the strength of opposition to such authoritarianism. Let us hope that Conference gives the proposal short shrift. Yours faithfully, CEDRIC SANDFORD, EVELYN SANDFORD, "Bantay", 19 Summerhill Road, Lansdown, Bath.

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## Criminal law reform plan

From Mr Francis Bennion  
Sir, Your report (14 June) of the statement by a Home Office minister that a new Act would be passed repealing the "sus" law is a welcome one. The minister pointed out that the present law against attempted theft is not a good one. It is a pity that the "would-be" thief who tries to open the door of a car or picks a pocket is empty. But it should be understood that this gap exists generally, and the "sus" law by no means fills it. The Act which repeals "sus" could close the gap by also including a provision needed quite apart from that offence.

By a long-standing conceptual error, English law has tried to catch all dishonest trespass to the person or to goods (not amounting to completed theft) under the umbrella of "attempt". Hence philosophical arguments which have diverted law students for generations. Can you attempt to steal from an empty pocket? (No said the House of Lords in *Houghton v Smith*.) Is it "attempted" theft to go through a woman's handbag without her noticing, and then replace it intact when nothing worth stealing is found? (No, said the Court of Appeal in *R v Goss*.) Yet an offence of this sort ought to be punishable.

The Act repealing "sus" could replace it with a simple provision stating that a person is guilty of an offence if, with intent to steal, he commits trespass to the person, or to goods (not amounting to completed theft). This would remove the criminal law path by moving the unjust "sus" offence, as the Commons Home Affairs Committee have recommended, and by correcting a serious omission in our armoury against the professional thief.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCIS BENNION,  
21 St Audins, Jersey, Channel Islands.  
June 15.

## Private school fees

From the Headmaster of Latymer Upper School

Sir, It is not the Master of Wellington College (June 12) who is wrong. Pupils were ineligible for free places at direct-grant schools only if they had not spent two years at a maintained school at any time. A child who had, for example, attended an infants' school from the age of five to seven, then moved to a private education would have been eligible for a local education authority free place.

All the remaining places at direct-grant schools were subject to a means test. No one therefore had to pay full fees at a direct-grant school, whatever their previous educational background. This income was not a means test which income warranted their doing so.

Yours faithfully,  
M. L. R. ISAAC,  
Latymer Upper School, W6.  
June 19.

## Sale of Persian MS

From Professor Sir Cyril Philips

Sir, On behalf of the Royal Asiatic Society may I briefly reply to the questions raised by Dr. Crowe and his colleagues (June 12) about the decision of the society to sell by public auction the Rashid al-Din manuscript. I need scarcely emphasize that our long-established and academic society thought long and hard before reaching the decision to sell a manuscript which is universally recognized for its rarity and historical importance.

The policy of the society has for a long time been to house treasures of great value not on its own premises but to deposit them wherever possible on loan to museums. Rashid al-Din's *Jami' al-Tawarikh* has been on loan for the last thirty years to the British Museum and British Library, in whose care it has been available, when not on display, for study.

It is with the utmost reluctance that the society has taken the decision to terminate that arrangement, and to sell the manuscript. It has had to balance the desire to retain the manuscript against the necessity of realizing a capital sum, the income from which can contribute to the society's fund for the purchase of new acquisitions. The society is a small body and its funds are limited. The decision to sell was founded to encourage, notwithstanding economies of every kind, repeated increases in subscription, a public appeal, and certain grants-in-aid from national funds. The society has been in deficit in its annual accounts for all but two of the last sixteen years. Yours faithfully, CYRIL PHILIPS, President, Royal Asiatic Society, 56 Queen Anne Street, W1. June 15.

## Test for monetarism

From Lord Boothby

Sir, At last Lord Kaldor (June 17) brings his powerful support to those of us who have for long been preaching that a system of credit-money (consisting largely of instant claims on non-existent cash) is the root cause of the world inflation which now besets us, by admitting that unless you have money, money is real value, central banks, individually or jointly, cannot exercise any direct control over its creation.

How do you do this? For reasons which you have already been good enough to publish (March 31), I prefer to let Lord Kaldor's bricks or Professor Hayek's "hurdle of commodities". But unless and until it is done internationally, the problem of inflation will not be solved. So long as money remains paper, in one form or another, throughout the world, the only way to limit the money supply is by sporadic indirect attempts on the part of governments to influence the factors which determine the demand for it, often at great cost in human misery. Your obedient servant, BOOTHBY, House of Lords, SW1. June 17.

## Confrontation in the New Hebrides

From Mr R. A. S. Foster

Sir, As a recently retired administrative officer in that unhappy group of islands, I hope you will allow me a few comments in your newspaper on the current situation in the New Hebrides. Faced with an overwhelming Anglophone majority of islanders, but with significant settlers' interests and economic dominance, the French Government in the past few years has sought actively to strike a political balance in order to lessen the dominance of the Vanuatu Party, and even to seek a majority in the local Assembly over islands to the extent that the movement allied itself to French settler groups to form a united political party in fierce uncompromising opposition to the Vanuatu Party. This move may seem quite a logical move on the part of the French, as originally the N-Griamel movement sought to restore largely French alienated land to the New Hebridean people. Even today N-Griamel and the French Government must seem uneasy bedfellows.

The first Representative Assembly elections were contested in 1975, based on an extraordinary semi-demanded constitution agreed by Britain and France. This constitution virtually ensured before a vote was cast that a known majority of about 65-70 per cent of the electorate would be translated into a minority representation on the Assembly. Apparently French inspired but agreed to by a supine British Government, this move for civil unrest was the best that the joint administration could produce at the time.

These two historical occurrences undoubtedly set the trend for the present unrest in the group, and it is a great pity that France, by far the more politically active of the two Condominium partners, should have allowed herself so misguidedly to become involved in New Hebridean internal affairs in an attempt to defend her own national interests. As a Francophile myself I have

never seen any inherent objection to France extending her influence in the area, I saw that potentially she had a great deal more to offer the New Hebrides than had Britain. But, it is in the manner in which she has exercised these interests which in my view has been wrong. If she had to meddle in local politics at all, perhaps an attempt in the early stages to influence and to help the Vanuatu Party with the same zeal as she in fact chose to with N-Griamel, may well have resulted in a different and more happy trend of recent events.

It is perhaps understandable for the administration that there is something in the climate of the New Hebrides coupled with a thousand years of history on the other side of the globe, which allows colonial administrators on both sides to indulge in the extraordinary and absurd pastime known locally as "the continuation of the Hundred Years War". Psychologically therefore, it is perhaps understandable for the French to behave in this manner quite wrongly believing that at move they make calculated to reduce the influence of the Anglophone majority is bound to increase their own. But this policy has proved itself to have been grave misjudged, and unless early joint agreement is reached with Fath, Walter Lini's Government and Jimmy Stevens to end the rebellion, the New Hebrides will continue to be a hotbed of civil war. I fear is a moot point.

It will be a terrible disgrace for Britain and France after 74 years of joint administration to allow this to pass above. Above all, in these last days of the Condominium, the two administering powers must for one be seen to be united to ensure a fair transition to full and peaceful independence for the New Hebridean people. Surely, after this splendid achievement in Zimbabwe, this is beyond the powers of our present Government. Yours faithfully, DNY FORSTER, Fell House, Lymington, Hampshire. June 15.

## Changes in liturgy

From the Principal of St Hugh's College

Sir, The result of the Gallup Poll organized by Professor David Martin (report, June 12) is encouraging to those who believe that the young and the less educated, it is, we now learn, precisely these who respond most warmly to the traditional liturgy and language. The immediate question is whether these forms and usages are genuinely available to them; and whether the trend towards change and dilution of the Book of Common Prayer and the Authorized Version can be reversed. To say that the new services will be no more than an alternative is meaningless if there are no copies of the Book of Common Prayer in our churches. A notion that is being fostered in many parishes that the old is going back once the Church has begun to move with the times. But the strongest arguments for change are now largely theological and sectarian, those based on intelligibility being seriously weakened by the poll results.

Such arguments ought not to come to congregations disguised as the will of history—an inevitable step in the onward march of enlightenment. The instinctive wisdom of the faithful may yet survive the learned folly of their pastors, but only if the two traditional texts are physically there in our churches, and if the traditional services are celebrated regularly and at central times of the day. Yours faithfully, RACHEL TRICKETT, Principal, St Hugh's College, Oxford.

## Reform of the CAP

From Mr S. A. Gourlay

Sir, Two leaders in the past three days (June 9 and 11) and reports of several major speeches indicate that the pressure for reform of the common agricultural policy, quite rightly, fast increasing. The implementation of your leader of June 9 is that larger farmers are crying a lot of fat which could be should be trimmed off by substantial cuts in EEC support prices. This would increase the surplus, be distributed and consumers enjoy lower food prices. The inevitable expansion of that line of logic is that if farmers with an average size farm nearly four times that of the rest of the Nine, should be able to achieve such reductions, with minimal adverse impact. This is far from being the case.

As little as two and a half years ago we had a "green pound" gap of 40 per cent which its responsibility for the price differential was prices for UK farmers. Today, thanks to green pound adjustments and the strength of sterling, we have EEC support prices which, at current exchange rates are largely equal to those of European partners. Yet in the past two years our net income has fallen by 28 per

cent in real terms (9 per cent in cash terms). As we now have the highest inflation rate in the EEC and the prospect in 1980/81 that our costs will increase by 17 per cent against around 8 per cent for our product, we face an inevitable further fall and consequent recession.

Against this background it can be seen that the industry is in no position to contribute any further to reducing inflation by absorbing a drop in farm gate prices. Indeed many of us think that we have already contributed far too much by having to perform to work with an EEC price package worth less than 5 per cent to us and which has added a mere one-sixth of 1 per cent to the retail price index. Reform of the CAP is certainly necessary. Trying to find common elements amongst the Nine is bad enough; amongst the proposed Twelve it would be a bureaucratic nightmare. So drastic surgery there may have to be but not, please by the superficially attractive but very blunt instrument of price cuts. Yours faithfully, S. A. GOURLAY, Hill House Farm, Knighton, Radnorshire, Powys. June 11.

gaois and labour camps. She is truly a selfless woman. An international effort to obtain her release have so far been to no avail. We appeal through your columns to the Soviet authorities to release Ida Nudel on humanitarian grounds and to allow her to join her family in Israel. We are, Sir, Yours faithfully, IRIS MURDOCH, BERNICE RUBENS, HORNSBY SMITH, ALMA BIRK, GLENDA JACKSON, MIRIAM KARLIN, JILL KNIGHT, JULIET PANNETT, WENDY GREENGROSS, JANET SUZMAN, DOROTHY TUTIN, National Council for Soviet Jewry, 183-189 Finchley Road, NW3.

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## Brick pollution in Bedfordshire

From Lord Tavistock

Sir, Bedfordshire is the centre of the world's brickmaking industry and those of us who live in Bedfordshire are proud of it. Furthermore, the London Brick Company has created valuable employment with this industry. I believe it is time for the country as a whole to be made aware of the ecological and environmental crime that it about to be perpetrated in the name of industrial progress with insufficient regard for the health of the population, the well-being of livestock and crops or, for that matter, Britain's signed agreement to participate fully in the abolition of aerial pollution in Europe.

New brickworks are built once in a lifetime and the London Brick Company are now planning to do just this. The Bedfordshire community has learned to live with the foul stench (which so many people drive in on the M1 around Exit 13 do notice) and have up to now, considered as inevitable the obvious pollution to livestock and the countryside: now there is an opportunity to act responsibly to ensure the safety of the next generation.

The London Brick Company is planning to build new chimneys 450 feet tall which will spread their pollutants over a far wider area of Britain and probably Europe too. Brick kilns can be filtered: the capital cost is high, but equally London Brick Company is particularly fortunate in that their clay is self-combustible thus enabling the production of cheap bricks with high profit margins. Those of us endeavouring to persuade the Secretary of State for the Environment to call in the London Brick Company's planning application are not in any way against the further development of brickmaking in our country—the very opposite—but not at any price! We do not believe that filtration would have a significant effect on house prices nor would it affect employment, even though we do recognise that it would lead to an increase in the price of bricks.

Too few facts are available here on the true effect of fluorides and sulphur dioxide emissions on human beings, animals and plants. Those that have been released, mostly emanate from the London Brick Company. Before a new generation of brickworks is built, it is not the responsibility of the Secretary of State for the Environment to be certain that what is planned for Bedfordshire is not against national interests? The county council is clearly divided. The Government should act—hold a public enquiry when all the facts should be ventilated to satisfy the people that steps are being taken to reduce rather than disperse aerial pollution in Britain and Europe. Yours faithfully, TAVISTOCK, Woburn Abbey, Woburn, Bedfordshire. June 13.

## Man and nature

From the President of the Landscape Institute

Sir, Writing on June 13 Dr A. S. Thomas pointed out that there is constant change in the balance of natural forces: he described the connection between social factors and the nature of forests in central Africa. The same is true in the British Isles, where the beauty of our rural landscape was developed by the attentiveness of successive generations of farmers and by the bold planning policies of the great landed estates. But I wonder whether Dr Thomas is right to imply that therefore social change is to be deplored? Human ideas about society develop just as surely as other natural phenomena.

It would perhaps be better to promote the idea of creating fine landscapes for the future in response to an understanding that change is the natural order of the world. Sometimes this may best be attained by conserving areas as they are by safeguarding the social conditions which have made them so. Often new social ideas can be a stimulus to the imagination, leading to new landscapes. In either case the landscape will be both beautiful and productive in the future only if we now make this aim a high priority informing all aspects of policy. Yours faithfully, HAL MOGGIDGE, The Landscape Institute, 12 Carlton House Terrace, SW1. June 17.

## The wages of crime

From Mr D. E. Culver

Sir, The issue raised in the "Operation Jubilee" case is, as you imply in your leader (June 13) not new. Some years ago I was concerned with a broadly similar case which was resolved by a magistrates' court simply on the basis that the law must not be used to operate against the public interest. Far be it from me to suggest that North London magistrates are concerned in law than the House of Lords, but it does seem that in the more recent case the maxim, *silvan non nocere videtur*, was ignored. Yours faithfully, DAVID CULVER, 66 Eltham Park Gardens, SE9. June 13.

## Below the belt

From Mr Lionel Alexander

Sir, In about July 1943 I was issued with braces to support my RAF trousers. They are made of stout webbing with leather rails and buttons. They have lasted well. I am still wearing them (though not the same trousers). Sir Robert Lusty (June 12) might try the surplus stores, in the hope that the lack of built-in redundancy in these warlike articles means that they are still available. Yours faithfully, LIONEL ALEXANDER, Woodhurst, 66 Eltham Park Gardens, SE9. June 12.

## Apics boycott

Professor C. T. Sandford and Sandford

Life-long Methodists we were to lead the boycott of your Affairs. Correspondent 41) that the International Committee of the Division of Responsibility was recommending to the Methodist Conference that support for British participation in the Olympic Games be withheld. The committee, we uphold the athletes to make their own decisions on whether or not to

from the Committee's view that the Games in Moscow should be preserved "as a potential instrument for world peace." We believe a boycott would be more likely to further peace. Irrespective of the merits of the argument, however, we deplore the attempt of the committee to make this issue, on which Methodists, as other Christians, are divided, one of church policy. The church should not violate the deeply-held conviction of its many dissenting members by claiming to speak for them all. Like the athletes the individual church member should be allowed to decide in the light of his own judgment and conscience. Within 36 hours of reading your correspondent's report we collected 31 signatures from local Methodist churches on a letter to the new President opposing the proposal. This reaction from grassroots Methodism gives some inkling of the strength of opposition to such authoritarianism. Let us hope that Conference gives the proposal short shrift. Yours faithfully, CEDRIC SANDFORD, EVELYN SANDFORD, "Bantay", 19 Summerhill Road, Lansdown, Bath.



# The Peugeot 505



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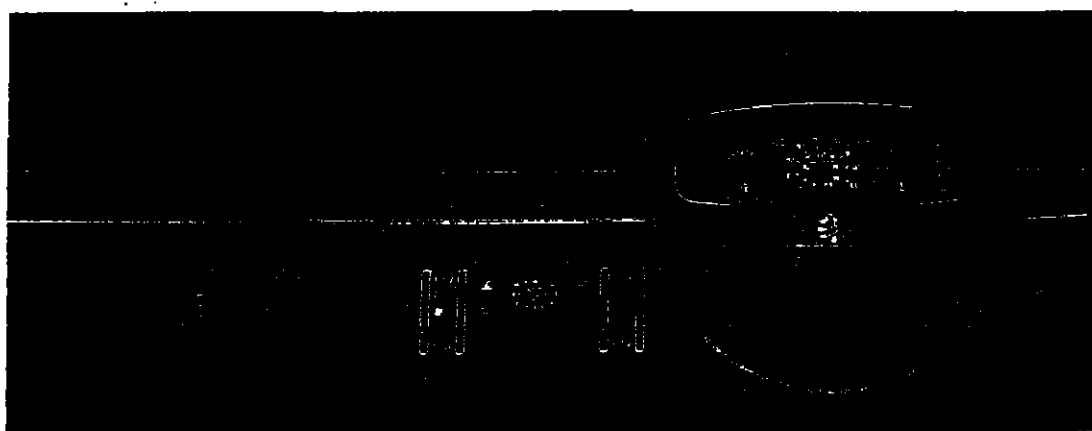
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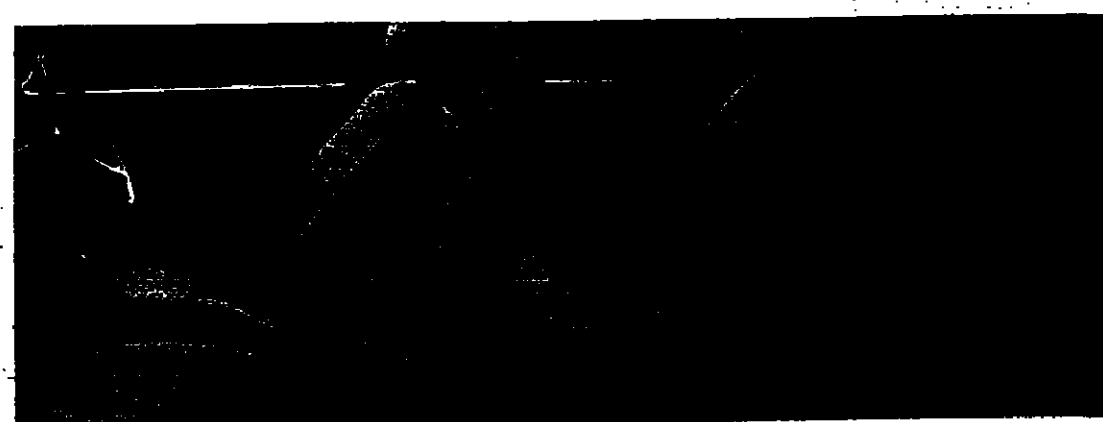
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*Daily Telegraph, November 1979*



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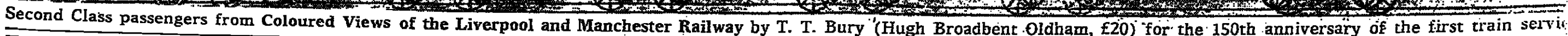


هكذا من الاجل









given by you as *Dickens and the Invisible World*, by Harry Stone; this was, in fact, an earlier and largely suppositional account of the sources of my literary imagination.

I do, indeed, now inhabit an invisible world, but not as yet a silent one, which is why I now feel compelled to ask you to make clear to your dis-



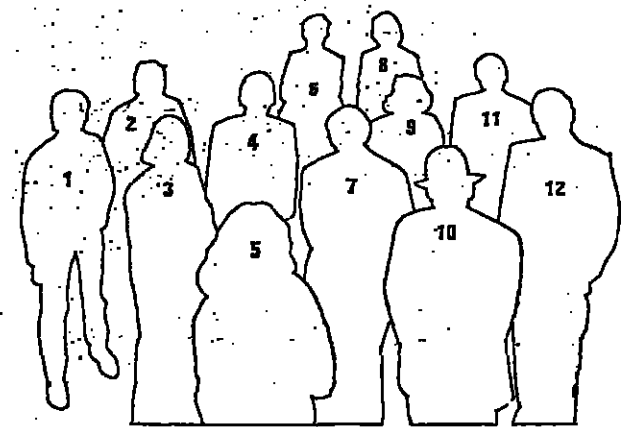


# Covent Garden

The new Market building opening in Covent Garden today (see page 25) is the central feature of a development plan published by the GLC in 1973. Earlier versions of the plan raised a public outcry, leading to the formation of two bodies—the Covent Garden Community Association and the Forum, a 30-member non-executive elected council. Some of the participants in this fray, together with a few newcomers, are shown here, photographed by Philip Sayer on the east terrace of the Market. Interviews by Peter Knight

vide the sympathetic atmosphere which is needed by hard-working professional dancers.

Pineapple, which opened a year ago, has 9,000 members using it seven days a week. Across the road, in Shelton Street, the Urdang Academy of Performing Arts provides both academic and practical tuition for about 50 dance students; and the 8,000-member Dance Centre, run by the American dancer Gary Cockrell, is two minutes' walk away, in Floral Street.



Two former office messengers with a flair for graphic art, Tim Noakes (1) and Tim Peplow (2) decided in 1976 to take advantage of the area's cheap rents and set up a studio to serve the advertising industry.

Covent Garden was one of the places you moved to. It had the right type of property: large buildings, high ceilings, and cheap square footage," Mr Peplow said.

Their Maiden Lane studio, known as TnT, has flourished, and the 27-year-old partners now employ three full-time artists. But they see a depressing future for similar enterprises in Covent Garden.

"We're not happy about the Market opening," Mr Noakes said. "It's great for the restaurants and pubs, but it's going to push up property prices even more and squeeze small businesses out."

Metropolis, a shop selling science fiction type clothes in Shelton Street, is typical of the many small businesses which took advantage of low inner-city rents when the fruit and vegetable market moved out in 1974. It is run by two fashion designers, Marie France (3) and Anthony Hendley (4). Each in their early thirties, they both design and manufacture their collections—his for men, hers for women.

"We once thought Covent Garden was a potential clothing area," Mr Hendley said. "But the slide has just begun in the clothing industry, and with rents and rates going up in Covent Garden it's going to take its toll of the small businesses which make Covent Garden so interesting."

The Royal Opera House is expanding. Already a start has been made on the £7.8m first phase, and the foundations have been laid for new dressing rooms and rehearsal studios.

In charge of the development, which will make the Opera House the biggest building in Covent Garden, is its 34-year-old arts administrator, Nicholas Hooton (5).

The expansion comes at a time when subsidized theatre is having to curtail expenditure, but Mr Hooton does not think this should stop the Opera House development.

He holds what he calls an "alternative view" on subsidies for the arts. "If the entertainment industry (films, recording, cinemas, television, and theatre) is viewed as a whole, subsidizing the non-profitable theatre, which provides the industry's talent, is not an expense," he said.

of Covent Garden as a live on the spot, so I am there to be shot at".

Ian McNicol (9) does not look like a typical sports hall manager, but the 33-year-old Liverpool law graduate has organized the conversion of a potato warehouse into a successful sports complex. He has also orchestrated the vociferous public campaign to save it from demolition.

The GLC wants to replace the 75-year-old Jubilee Hall with a shopping, office, residential and parking complex which will include some sports facilities. The council is opposed by the Civic Trust, the Victorian Society, the Royal Fine Art Commission and Camden and Westminster City Councils, as well as by the Forum.

More than an astute businesswoman, however, Miss Smith is something of a philanthropist. She is, for instance, cooperating with the church wardens of St Paul's to stop vehicles from parking in the churchyard; they aim to reimburse the church's income by private fund raising.

In 1963 Miss Smith set up Goods & Chawls, importing and wholesaling colourful goods from the Far East, and for the past eight years she has made frequent buying trips to China. "I know only too well the problems of small businesses. Before 1970 the bailiffs loomed on several occasions," she said.

Miss Smith filed an objection to the first (1968) GLC redevelopment plan, and was a founder member of the CGCA. In 1974 she was elected to the Forum, on which she still serves, and she has lived in Neal Street since 1968.

The men who led the GLC development plan: Dr Mark Patterson (left) chairman of the Covent Garden committee and Mr Geoffrey Holland, who directed the planning team.

Debbie Moore (5), a former model, converted 8,000 sq ft of fruit warehousing into the six dance studios, café and dance-wear shop which comprise her Pineapple Dance Centre in Langley Street.

"With the theatres here, Covent Garden is the geographically obvious place for dancers to congregate," she said, "and the converted buildings, while they do cause certain problems, pro-

The 1968 redevelopment plan, which included a four-lane sunken road sweeping Rules Restaurant and Maiden Lane off the map, angered a former Fleet Street cartoonist who is the owner of Rules, John Wood (7).

Rules is probably London's oldest surviving restaurant. Lily Langtry and the Prince of Wales used it as a rendezvous; Dickens and Thackeray dined there; so did (and do) Sir John Betjeman and Graham Greene.

Mr Wood's display of the plan in the restaurant led to John testifying with the objectives at the 1971 public inquiry. Mr Wood chaired the working party which set up the Forum and is now the council's vice-chairman.

As rents and rates rise, he says, the next five years will be crucial for the survival



## Four years of sporadic guerrilla war

ago the Covent Garden Community Association had a rhetorical, faces, outspoken, cracking the London Council. Its submission of a Covent Garden plan to the Council of "urban" renaissance would, it is better fitted petition for "the

Patterson, chair- GLC Covent committee and the s. arch enemy, tical, 133. He is torer, 133. He is a speaking his motives to the rear of his own at he does not that those to refers dismissive sensitive presu- uld be entitled to ncil policy.

hich goes to show ing much hus ince 1968. It was r that the council its first master the area. It had and obtained, rning powers on d that it was to an area to be left o boroughs be- ch it would nor- split. Westminster was, the dispute and delay

and Camden, it was said, were ideologically too far apart to have any hope of reaching common ground. The fact that, since then, right-leaning Westminster has, as often as not, aligned itself with Camden (which reads to lead with its left) in opposing the GLC, whatever the latter's political complexion, is one of life's little ironies.

The 1968 plan was in tune with the times and consequently dreadful. Most of the area was to be swept away to make way for a so-called relief road for the Strand. It would have been a repetition of London Wall, a soulless urban motorway, flanked by new office blocks. Fortunately the opposition was both influential and sustained and five years later, Mr Geoffrey Rippon, a possibly underrated Secretary of State for the Environment, was able to kill the scheme by the simple expedient of approving it and, at the same time, imposing so many covenants that it would have been impossible to fulfill it. By coincidence, the property bubble burst with a resounding pop at about the same time.

If it all seemed a waste of time and energy, which it was, the dispute and delay

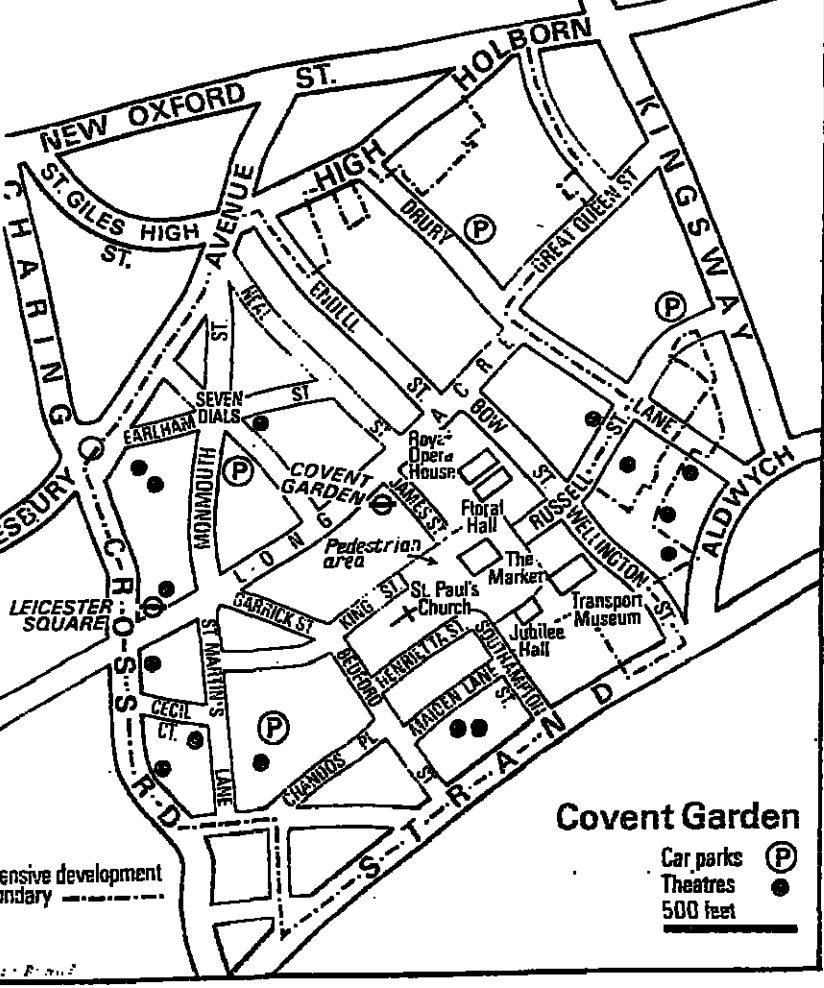
had at least allowed other forces the opportunity to project a direct interest. The council policy today is one of detachment and non-inter- vention in what it regards as local matters. It would prefer to abandon its role as the planning authority and—probably soon after the next council elections, whichever party is returned to power—restore responsibility to the two boroughs.

Mr Geoffrey Holland, a young, energetic and likable man who has directed the council's planning team through a long and difficult period, remains fairly sanguine about its achievements. He expects the population to grow from its present static figure of about 2,800 to some 3,600 in the next year, most of the newcomers being housed in an estate nearing completion in Long Acre, which at the moment looks quixotically eccentric but may yet turn out to be all right on the day that the scaffolding is finally removed.

The council is ready to put itself on the back, if no one else will, for its Central Market scheme, for the relocation of the transport museum, and for a number of other small scale rehabilitation and employment creating projects which it feels have gone largely unnoticed. The private sector has, in turn, played its part in several other commendable restoration and conversion schemes.

Mr Holland admits to disappointments. Recalcitrant landlords have, in some cases, refused to cooperate in rehabilitation, in the belief that eventually the pressures for redevelopment will be irresistible and will make them rich men. Proposals for more pedestrian precincts have met with objections from local traders who, flying in the face of all evidence to the contrary, insist that their businesses will suffer. Above all, the prolonged delay in getting things moving has meant that, in the dismal economic climate of the 1980s, ambitious projects have had to be toned down from what they might once have been.

The dispute over the Jubilee Hall persists as the last stand in the guerrilla war. The GLC sees redevelopment of the site as the final justification for its intervention; the community association regards retention of the hall, at present used as a sports centre, as a rampart against oblivion. Of such small issues are great conflicts made.



John Young  
Planning Reporter

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## COVENT GARDEN

## Laying a ghost town

Change or decay? Optimists who believe that our cities can and will survive maintain that change is the very basis of their vitality and has been happening for centuries. The present malaise, the crisis of the so-called inner city, should, they say, be seen as the birth pangs of a renaissance.

The pessimists' view is that the decline is too longstanding and deep-rooted to be reversed. Whereas in former times enlightened urban planning and economic forces could be recon- sidered, they argue, the middle of the last century, and have since diverged to the point where no reconciliation is possible.

In some ways Covent Garden provides a test case of which view is correct. Six years ago it experienced drastic change, with the departure of the fruit, flower and vegetable market that for generations had been its economic lifeblood. For months afterwards its streets resembled those of a ghost town, struck by some sudden and fearful calamity.

Of decay, too, it has had its full share. The spacious concept of Inigo Jones's piazza was never really compatible with the tumult and congestion of the market place. In the heyday of the

market it was picturesque but seedy. Its 300 or so listed buildings "suffered from the fact that it was difficult to find uses that would coexist happily with the noise and smell, the social character, which the community association is passionately keen to retain."

That Covent Garden is coming to life again after its brief sleep there can be no doubt. Whether the new appearance and functions it is assuming are desirable is still the subject of heated debate. The Greater London Council believes that, as the planning authority, it has done a good job, and that the restored central market will be a lasting monument to its good taste and perspicacity. Some disappointed residents and would-be residents maintain that the council has sold out to the speculators, and that the area is being overrun by trendy and expensive boutiques, restaurants and wine bars.

Amid the bustle of rebuilding, repair and restoration, the dispassionate observer may perhaps have an uneasy sense that an opportunity is somehow being lost and that, however admirable the end result proves, it might have been better. But these are early days; we can but wait and see.

John Young

## Rival to Soho for the gourmet

Mrs Shirley Poon is living proof that when Soho gets aristocratic connections and the opportunity to be posh, these days it moves east to Covent Garden, which is London's coming area for restaurants. Stylish and modern, Poon's of Covent Garden in King Street contrasts with the old (but surviving) Poon's and Co of Lisle Street—all vertiginous staircases, steamy rooms and cracked crockery—in a way that fairly typifies the differences between the two areas the restaurants inhabit. Soho is old, familiar, convivial sleazy. Covent Garden is more than twice the price—but the new trend.

That is what made the Garden's glass-roofed East Terrace, overlooking the Opera House, arguably the most sought-after restaurant site in London. The Mario and Franco partnership (also originally from Soho), who are to have it, allegedly won the privilege from 300 competitors anxious to ride the new wave.

Not everything about Covent Garden is new. A few old favourites remain, unchanging down the years. Rules are still observed in Maiden Lane, festooned in sporting prints and spy car- rons, and running through the repertoire of traditional English daily dishes as regu- larly as the clockwork of an old roast spit. Mon Plaisir, the unpretentious little bistro in Monmouth Street, has I suppose changed some of the posters on its walls in the more than 20 years I have known it, but I still do not know which. It is still good enough to get in the Michelin guide.

At the other end of the spectrum the Ivy in West Street is just as plush and staid now as it was, no doubt, when it opened in 1913.

There also remain a heart- eningly large number of "unimproved" small snags and restaurants, in several of which a main course of sorts still costs less than £1, and at least two fish and chip shops still willing to sell the last few pieces of rock (soon to be redefined by the food labelling regulations) at 55p a piece.

More typical of the changes that have been taking place, though, is Boul- din, a perfect theatre of cigar smoke and neglect had rendered grim and gloomy.

Expensively refurbished by Italian places, La Scala, Southampton Street, Luigi's, Tavistock Street, which always seem crowded if only because of the auto- graphed pictures of showbiz folk and opera stars plastered over the walls, and two attractive Japanese res- taurants, Azami in West Street and the rather simpler Ajimura, Shelton Street.

For vegetarians (and misers): Food for Thought in Neal Street offers a beau- tiful feast of things like nut roast in mushroom sauce at less than £1.

For osteopaths: L'Opera, Great Queen Street, seasonally sets out London's only open-air oyster bar (and has an out- standing wine list besides).

For gastronomes: Inter- lude de Tabla, Bow Street, beside the Opera House, is one of the area's latest acquisitions and a stepson of Le Gavroche (A. Roux part-proprietor with one of his former chefs).

Lunches (£12.50, everything included) and dinners (£15, similar) can be exquisite, and the first time I was there I found myself sandwiched between Egon Ronay, Hilary Robinson of the Good Hotel Guide, and Caroline Couran.

For pub crawlers: of many, ones not to miss seem to be the Nag's Head, or balletomanes' ruin, in James Street; the refur- bished Bedford Head in Maiden Lane; the reason- ably comfortable Hercules Pillars in Great Queen Street; the tiny and usually crowded Lamb and Flag, Rose Street; and the the- atrical Salisbury, St Martin's Lane. There are two more places of food, the best of the brasseries is the ele- gant Porters, in Henrietta Street, serving traditional English pies and soups in brisk American style.

The more authentic American flavour in food is found at Joe Allen's in Exeter Street, where the hamburger is properly re- defined as "chopped steak" (and costs £2.90 with trimmings) or L. S. Grum's Chicago Pizza, in Maiden Lane, where pizzas are backed up with American ices and cheesecake.

Often the busiest, because everything on the menu is available from breakfast time right through the day, is Tutton's, Russell Street, beside the London Trans- port Museum, and the no- tiest is probably the Rock Garden, which describes itself as "dance hall theatre restaurant" and spills crowds into the piazza on most evenings.

Others in similar style in- clude Rumours, Wellington Street (a different exotic cocktail every day and coffee through the afternoon), Tango, Long Acre (live music and burgers with a South American flavour), and Plummer's, James Street (superburgers in Victo- rian). Flounders, Tavistock Street, performs simi- larly with fish.

The area is cosmopolitan, too. It has London's only African restaurant, the Calabash in the Africa Centre, King Street, where ground- nut stews are eaten with Jolloff rice and plantains, and its only Brazilian one—Paulo's in Wellington Street, a vibrant place where casquinha de sirri, char-grilled chops, and the likes are recommended. Then the Caribbean Ocho Rios has migrated to Long Acre from Marblebone with our perceptibly raising prices or dropping stand- ards.

Then there are two

For food shoppers: Hobbs and Co in Garrick Street have one of the most op- ulent displays of exotics in London, though the prices may dismay. They even keep their nuts warm to enhance the flavour, and the greatest French names jostle with extraordinary Italian bottlings in oil along their shelves.

More economical, though just as trendy, are the whole food shops concentrated in Neal's Yard. Here a bakery turns out good gristly bread and the dairy supplies goat's milk and yoghurts which are rennet-free. The main warehouse sells pulses, oils, honeys, dried fruits, spices and herbs at prices which are 25 to 50 per cent, and occasionally even 10 times, cheaper than prices in the supermarkets.

Otherwise, though, food shops are thin on the ground. Sainsbury, deaf to local protest and the nostalgic appeal of history, closed its original store in Drury Lane, which has been taken over by Shepherd, bringing local inhabitants the busi- nesses of hand-baked biscuits and a dozen different lines in mineral water in exchange for a fresh meat department.

Thornton's, the best multi- ple sweetshops, will shortly be opening a branch in the old vegetable market. Otherwise all that remains of the except the shell, is Robert Bruce's shop by Covent Garden tube station, still the best place in London for the widest choice of fruit and vegetables in first- class condition.

Robin Young  
Consumer Affairs  
Correspondent

## Profiles

continued from previous page  
Mr Williams is o about Covent furme, however. "St area has preserve from a great deal of early life has come l it: the opening of t will provide an a centre. I can see S Church playing n part in Covent future."

Bob Harris (12), secretary of the For owner of Covent 1 102-year-old thea- tumiers, Charles I predicts that soar- and rates will squee many of the area haunge and torag pained, which nees space close to the which they support.

Mr Harris has m family company an the costume busine its high overha seasonal demand, a now one of the c largest theatrical stockists. While ration brought the a good fortune, 103 k been lost in 12 year are still to go w costume hire serv

"My view on the rents and rates is pessimistic one," When there is a m should be pointed attacked at source can do something at

I'm sold on the whole business of building the spirit of community," Mr Williams said. "What is going on in Covent Garden is something of an attempt to realize that spirit and to defend it against the kind of devastation which has come to so many cities."

## "Covent Garden Guide"

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## Neglect at the Dials

For London's many tourists, the superb restoration of Fowler's Central market building will offer a welcome alternative to a increas- ingly tacky West End. Londoners will be able to enjoy a wide range of shop- ping and other facilities.

For the politicians and planners the Market provides proof that they can restore with imagination, rather than demolish with good intent, and a recently revealed bonus: what was to have been a loss-making scheme is now expected to show a substantial profit for the GLC, through rapidly spiralling rents and land values in Covent Garden.

However, the forces which have presented the GLC with its unexpected bonus must raise questions over the future realization of other, less sensational objectives. Other aspects of the Covent Garden plan involve detailed cooperation between the GLC and a multiplicity of other bodies in the achievement of housing, environmental and social objectives. A unique range of powers exists to achieve these objectives, exercised by three of the country's largest and wealthiest local authorities—Camden, West- minster, and the GLC. There is a conservation area around the Piazza, a housing conservation area across the Seven Dials, and Action area powers exist for the whole of Covent Garden.

In spite of these powers very little has been achieved in the north of Covent Garden which contains the

bulk of the promised small housing schemes. One hundred of the area's 250 listed buildings surround Seven Dials, 40 of them derelict, and the bulk of the residential property left empty several years after the declaration of a housing action area.

Apart from the Piazza, few of the promised environ- mental improvements have materialized. Again, there are so many agencies involved that what was agreed years ago seems to defy the authorities.

During the nine years I have worked in the area, while financial support for such initiatives has been forthcoming, forward plan- ning and the sensible alloca- tion of space in publicly- owned buildings has not. New health facilities in the GLC's Odham's site are now in question, and the future of properly-planned recrea- tional facilities on the Jubilee site remains in doubt.

For young people in central London there are no houses. The only new youth organization in the area, the Central London Youth Project, has been striving to improve its facilities during the time the market has been restored. But while young tourists enjoy the Markets' vaunted celebs, local young people (22 ILCA schools and hundreds of local youngsters in their leisure time used CLY's facilities last year) are left in a basement.

David Bieda  
Director of the  
Central London Youth Project

## What's all this song and dance about Covent Garden



There's been song and dance in Covent Garden for years... Ever since Floral Street really was a mass of flowers and the pubs stayed open all night for the market porters, the Royal Opera House has flourished as the heart of the Garden.

This season we're flourishing as usual with The Royal Opera in June, with five different operas, and The Royal Ballet in July, with an exciting five week season of eight ballets.

If you would like to get to the heart of Covent Garden telephone the box office on 01-240 1068, or Gardendance - for instant credit card bookings on 01-836 9803, or send a stamped addressed envelope to Marketing Department Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2E 7QA.

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## An attractive variety of shops with a difference

There is a commodity never been lacking in the 94 acres of Covent Garden. But who thought, 15 years ago, that the central market, the place where the people would ever bridge as a shopping attraction? It is a centre, whether they call it Covent Garden or not, and it is quite different from the round and

people to the Market. Only 3,000 live in the area, but 300,000 work within 10 minutes' walk and once there, for a meal or a drink, there should be good reasons to stay.

2. The shops should not be those that rely on impulse trading and should not be so ordinary that they can be found in every suburb.

3. The traders should all be professional retailers, not beginners.

4. The shops should be an attraction in their own right and should be compatible one with another.

5. They should relate to the businesses that have already proved successful in the area.

6. There should be six main themes: arts, crafts, books, toys, fashion and, perhaps to keep the memory of the original market alive, plants and specialise foods.

Since I feel that no visitor should concentrate on the Market alone, and it is impossible to mention everybody, my recommendations of some of the most interesting shops are necessarily subjective.

Further information on shops and shopping can be found in the 128 pages of *The Covent Garden Guide* by Douglas Gendler. Published by Ernest Benn at £2.95, this admirable paperback contains chapters on theatres, restaurants, museums and hotels, some fascinating local history and a detailed six-page map.

**Books, maps and periodicals**

In the Market, Hammicks, 1a North Hall, were founded by Charles Hammick in Farnham in 1968. They have a wide general selection and specialise in law books.

There are two rooms of children's books on the first floor. Books can be supplied within 24 hours, drawn from a stock of 28,000 titles from 150 publishers which serve the seven Hammicks shops.

Robert Heron, Original and Rare Newspapers 1620-1855 will shortly be opening on the first floor, dealing in English, particularly London, newspapers, with some American and French. His earliest example is a 1620 newsbook, 8in x 6in, stitched like an unbound book. He

stops at 1855 because the repeal of the stamp duty made newspapers more available.

Outside the Market, H. M. Fletcher, 27 Cecil Court, has been dealing in rare books since 1936 and is now run by the third generation of the family, Keith Fletcher. Also in Cecil Court are Dance Books, dealing in ballet, modern, social and jazz dancing. Images, run by Peter Stockham, who is unusual in stocking modern children's books as well as early ones from 1750 to 1830, and Travis and Emery, specialists in rare music books.

Bertram Rota at 30 Long Acre, specialises in modern first editions and has, among others, Hemingway, Joyce, Yates, Daignton and Charteris.

Edward Stanford, at 12 Long Acre, claims to be the largest map shop in the world. Founded in 1852, the business moved to Covent Garden in 1901 and now stocks every possible type of map from holiday road maps to specialist atlases and thematic maps. They and Moss Bros are among the oldest established businesses in the area.

**Art galleries**

It is hoped that there will be a gallery in the Market by August, but it would be impossible to ignore the influence that galleries in the surrounding streets have already had on the area. The most famous is the Covent Garden Gallery at 20 Russell Street, owned by William Drummond. He recently discovered that a small landscape, bought for £150 from his brother, who had given £48.07 for it at auction, was in fact by John Constable.

Mr Drummond concentrates mostly on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and the Constable will be on view during his current exhibition of watercolours and drawings.

The most spacious gallery is 52 Earlham Street, owned by Christina Smith who, as a founder member of the community association and member of the Covent Garden Forum, has been active in preserving the area from some of its threatened fates.

The recent exhibition here by David Gentleman was his second collection of lithographs of the area. The first, in 1972, of its important buildings, helped to preserve it. This second, of its familiar streets, has been admired by many local people, some of whom buy studies of the buildings in which they spent their childhood.

Some of these lithographs are still on show in the small gallery next door. The current show at 52 is of the work of mentally handicapped children in aid of Mental Handicap week.

Two galleries, formerly old banana warehouses in Langley Court, off Floral Street, specialise in modern artists. Anthony Stokes, at No 3, shows photography as well as sculpture, drawings and paintings by young British artists. Anne Berthoud, at No 1, presents five British painters and sculptors, including English, Swiss, American and French artists.

She is specially interested in small collectors and even arranges special terms for them to pay without pain. Prices start at about £50 for a print to £3,500 for oil, and there is a print for people to leaf through informally, without feeling under pressure.

**Fashion**

This is the category about which the Covent Garden Team were most worried, being desperately anxious to maintain an up-market image and not degenerate into another Carnaby Street. They even wrote "no denim" into the leases.

S. Fisher, at 12 Central Avenue, on the ground floor of the Market, specialises in men's and women's knitwear, lambswool, Shetlands, Fair Isle, 36 colours of cashmere. Kicks, at 15, have French-designed shoes and lots of children's clothes and next door Edwina Carroll has Victorian nightdresses and art nouveau jewelry among a variety of bric-a-brac.

Crocodile, at 17, has the beautifully-cut simple clothes in lovely fabrics appreciated by its Bond Street customers, while Whistles, at 20, have some interestingly original styles by young designers.

Monsoon, at 23 South Hall, also on the ground floor, have dresses embroidered and spangled on Indian cotton and fine silks and a good selection of children's clothes. Caroline Brunn, at 25, specialises in machine dresses, suits and jackets in wool, cotton and bouclé.

In the Lower Courtyard, Acsis, at 31, sell modern fashion jewelry from £2.95 to £1,500, most of which is hand made in their own workshops. They will also make to customers' requirements.

**Crafts and souvenirs**

Only one shop in the Market is to be allowed to sell souvenirs—the Market Gift Shop at 26 South Hall. It will stock own-label teas and collectibles, reasonably restrained market mementoes, typically English products, not necessarily hand made. Definitely no beaniefeet. It is run by Robert Conway, who owns the Inside Out Shop in Long Acre and the Bath and Bed shop in Russell Street.

The Craftwork Gallery at 33 Lower Courtyard will exhibit and sell pottery, jewelry, silver, woven and knitted clothes, turned wood and painted toys and blown glass, all by British craftsmen. There will also be the rented stands for craftspeople who, it is hoped, will maintain a high standard.

Outside the Market, the British Crafts Centre, on the corner of Earlham Street and Neal Street, has craft exhibitions of all types from many parts of the world and if you want to see crafts in action, the Glasshouse, at 65 Long Acre, always has two of its five glass blowers at work and on view.

Harvest, at 40 Tavistock Street, apart from selling prints and the more unusual greetings cards, puts on craft exhibitions of style and wit. One of the nicest craft shops in the area is Naturally British which has hand-made products from 350 craftsmen, from ceramic brooches and three dimensional puzzles, to hand knitwear and cast-iron firebricks.

**Etceteras**

Thorntons, chocolates and toffees, The Dairy Centre,

all English cheeses, Fenns, game and poultry and Fern's coffees and teas, occupy the north side of the Market, with Covent Garden Kitchen Supplies, a branch of Elizabeth David, stocking 1,500 utensils from petit four moulds to 40-pin casseroles. Culpeper, with its huge selection of culinary and medicinal herbs and spices, is across the North Hall at No 5.

Casa Fina of Leamington Spa is at 9 Central Avenue, specialising in imported ceramics, rugs, furniture and lighting from Spain, Portugal, Mexico and Italy. Strangeways, at 19, is another version of Christopher Strangeways' branches in King's Road and Holland Street, offering a selection of household items and clocks.

In the Lower Courtyard, The Doll's House, at 29, is run by Mrs Michael Hunt who has well-known shops in Lisson Grove and Sudbury. She has just completed a one twelfth scale model of Gainsborough's house in Sudbury. The model is on show in the Market shop. There is also a beautifully-made doll's house furniture.

The Candles Shop, at 30, has candles from all over the world, and personalized neon lights, made to order, an idea which came from California.

Outside the Market, you can find everything decoratively festive at Cats, 25 Bedfordbury, and everything philatelic at the Royale Stamp Company, 41 Bedford Street and at Harris Publications, 42 Maiden Lane. The Copper Shop, 48 Neal Street, has exclusively English-made copper. R. I. Harding at 61 does high-class camera repairs, and The Kite Shop, at 69, claims the largest range of kites in the world.

The Badge Shop, at 18 Earlham Street, has an instant badge-making machine and a collection of rare badges. Salvi, 55 Endell Street, is a harp specialist. Faxman's, 116 Long Acre is the only hornmaker in the country and Philip Poole, at 182 Drury Lane, has his own collection of more than 5,000 out-of-production pen nibs (which are not for sale) and a selection of current nibs, quills and inkwells which are.



Inside the London Transport Museum, Covent Garden. The museum, which is housed within the former flower market, was opened at the end of March and has already attracted more than 70,000 visitors. It represents 200 years of the evolution of London's transport system and its impact on the growth of London.

# London's historic new shopping experience opens day at 3pm

## VENT GARDEN

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the GLC's magnificently restored Covent Market Building opens its doors to London will deny that it will be the capital's most new shopping rendezvous in years.

at the heart of the whole re-vitalised Covent Market Building—established by the Duke of 1830—has been faithfully renovated with loving adapted to make room for shops, restaurants, a and even a brand new pub, 'The Punch and Judy' ghout the three floors of Covent Garden Market, il discover the many features of the building that restored after one and a half centuries. Down on ground floor, for example, the brick vaults of the t are now a splendidly original setting for several tops. On the ground and first floors, superbly ast-iron columns of 1830 can again be seen as an ckground for all kinds of exciting new shops and ng stands.

**Late Night Shopping—six nights a week**

the main attractions of Covent Garden Market is shops will be open from Monday to Saturday pm.

t Garden already had two world famous opera d fifteen theatres, and now visitors to theatreland

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ecd, discriminating shoppers will find as fine a on of specialised shops, opening now and very soon, s anywhere in the world.

sk at the names! Elizabeth David Ltd. for kitchen- ulpeper the herbalist, now in Covent Garden for the ne; The Body Shop for natural cosmetics and res; fashion shops—Crocodile, Monsoon and es; high class knitwear from Carolyn Brunn and

have an historic new rendezvous, with all its restaurants, wine bars and pub, which will be open all week including Sunday.

**The Sale Place of the Centuries**

Covent Garden Market has always been involved in selling high quality goods. In the Middle Ages, surplus produce from the fields of Covent Garden (originally the Convent Garden of the Abbey of St. Peter) was sold in the streets to the citizens of London. Eventually in 1670 Francis Russell, fifth Earl of Bedford obtained a licence from King Charles II for a permanent market and it was a descendant who commissioned the 1830 Covent Garden Market Building as part of the world famous Covent Garden fruit and vegetable market. Now 40 cast-iron trading stands—taken from the old Flower Market—to be known as the Apple Market, will feature crafts people selling their own wares.

**Lots for Kids, too!**

There will be plenty for kids to enjoy. Pollocks Toy Museum will have a shop here as will Eric Snook from Bath who sells toys and models. The Dolls House sells handmade antique and miniature dolls houses, and Kicks are famous for their children's shoes. Monsoon too, will have a children's clothing section. Hammicks are devoting part of their shop to children's books. At weekends, there will be special entertainment for children in and around the Market.

**Speciality Eating in The Market**

You can expect to find a variety of new eating places in The Market. Apart from the pub—the Punch & Judy, opening shortly—there will be a café/brasserie called Peelers, the Covent Garden Creperie and The Café/Delicatessen. There will be a new wine bar called The Crusting Pipe and on the East Terrace, where the conservatories used to be, Mario and Franco will be opening a restaurant early next year.

S. Fisher and shoes from Kicks. Penguins and Hammicks will have bookshops. As for food, Cranks will sell their health foods and there will be a Dairy Centre as well as meat, poultry and game from Fenns; tea and coffee from Fenns; and chocolates and confectionery from Thorntons. Craftwork Gallery, Strangeways, Edwina Carroll, the Market Gift Shop and the Casa Fina will sell a wide selection of crafts, ceramics, household goods and gifts.

Poster appearing on London's buses featuring the variety of shops in Covent Garden Market.



Artist Reg Cartwright's impression of the restored GLC Covent Garden Market Building, as seen from the steps of St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden Piazza.

**Handy for the Tube—and well over thirty bus routes**

It takes less than a minute to stroll from Covent Garden Underground Station (on the Piccadilly Line) to the beautifully restored Covent Garden Market Building and the adjacent London Transport Museum.

Leicester Square, Trafalgar Square and Holborn tube stations are all within easy walking distance; Charing Cross Main Line Station and the Charing Cross Underground interchange are about 450 yards away.

Well over thirty bus routes go by Covent Garden, coming through Central London from all directions.

**From Casanova to Peter Rabbit**

From the seventeenth century Covent Garden was a fashionable address, if not always salubrious. Casanova lodged at a pub in Russell Street, to the east of the Market Building; and just for contrast Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit

first saw the light of day in Bedford Street, at the west side of the market. The whole area is soaked in literature, history and the arts and well worth a tour in its own right.

Painting of The Market by P. Lev in 1864. (Courtesy of the Museum of London)

**GLC Greater London Council**



**DOUGLAS**  
**CIVIL ENGINEERING &  
BUILDING CONTRACTORS**  
BIRMINGHAM • CARDIFF • EDINBURGH • GLASGOW  
LONDON • STOCKTON-ON-TEES • SWANSEA • WIGAN

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, June 16. Dealings End, June 27. § Contango Day, June 30. Settlement Day, July 7.  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

## Stock Exchange Prices

# Strong buying

## LET THE GIN BE HIGH & DRY!

## Really Dry Gin

1979-80	1978-79	1977-78	1976-75	1975-74	1974-73	1973-72	1972-71	1971-70	1970-69	1969-68	1968-67	1967-66	1966-65	1965-64	1964-63	1963-62	1962-61	1961-60	1960-59	1959-58	1958-57	1957-56	1956-55	1955-54	1954-53	1953-52	1952-51	1951-50	1950-49	1949-48	1948-47	1947-46	1946-45	1945-44	1944-43	1943-42	1942-41	1941-40	1940-39	1939-38	1938-37	1937-36	1936-35	1935-34	1934-33	1933-32	1932-31	1931-30	1930-29	1929-28	1928-27	1927-26	1926-25	1925-24	1924-23	1923-22	1922-21	1921-20	1920-19	1919-18	1918-17	1917-16	1916-15	1915-14	1914-13	1913-12	1912-11	1911-10	1910-9	1909-8	1908-7	1907-6	1906-5	1905-4	1904-3	1903-2	1902-1	1901-0	1900-0	1899-0	1898-0	1897-0	1896-0	1895-0	1894-0	1893-0	1892-0	1891-0	1890-0	1889-0	1888-0	1887-0	1886-0	1885-0	1884-0	1883-0	1882-0	1881-0	1880-0	1879-0	1878-0	1877-0	1876-0	1875-0	1874-0	1873-0	1872-0	1871-0	1870-0	1869-0	1868-0	1867-0	1866-0	1865-0	1864-0	1863-0	1862-0	1861-0	1860-0	1859-0	1858-0	1857-0	1856-0	1855-0	1854-0	1853-0	1852-0	1851-0	1850-0	1849-0	1848-0	1847-0	1846-0	1845-0	1844-0	1843-0	1842-0	1841-0	1840-0	1839-0	1838-0	1837-0	1836-0	1835-0	1834-0	1833-0	1832-0	1831-0	1830-0	1829-0	1828-0	1827-0	1826-0	1825-0	1824-0	1823-0	1822-0	1821-0	1820-0	1819-0	1818-0	1817-0	1816-0	1815-0	1814-0	1813-0	1812-0	1811-0	1810-0	1809-0	1808-0	1807-0	1806-0	1805-0	1804-0	1803-0	1802-0	1801-0	1800-0	1799-0	1798-0	1797-0	1796-0	1795-0	1794-0	1793-0	1792-0	1791-0	1790-0	1789-0	1788-0	1787-0	1786-0	1785-0	1784-0	1783-0	1782-0	1781-0	1780-0	1779-0	1778-0	1777-0	1776-0	1775-0	1774-0	1773-0	1772-0	1771-0	1770-0	1769-0	1768-0	1767-0	1766-0	1765-0	1764-0	1763-0	1762-0	1761-0	1760-0	1759-0	1758-0	1757-0	1756-0	1755-0	1754-0	1753-0	1752-0	1751-0	1750-0	1749-0	1748-0	1747-0	1746-0	1745-0	1744-0	1743-0	1742-0	1741-0	1740-0	1739-0	1738-0	1737-0	1736-0	1735-0	1734-0	1733-0	1732-0	1731-0	1730-0	1729-0	1728-0	1727-0	1726-0	1725-0	1724-0	1723-0	1722-0	1721-0	1720-0	1719-0	1718-0	1717-0	1716-0	1715-0	1714-0	1713-0	1712-0	1711-0	1710-0	1709-0	1708-0	1707-0	1706-0	1705-0	1704-0	1703-0	1702-0	1701-0	1700-0	1699-0	1698-0	1697-0	1696-0	1695-0	1694-0	1693-0	1692-0	1691-0	1690-0	1689-0	1688-0	1687-0	1686-0	1685-0	1684-0	1683-0	1682-0	1681-0	1680-0	1679-0	1678-0	1677-0	1676-0	1675-0	1674-0	1673-0	1672-0	1671-0	1670-0	1669-0	1668-0	1667-0	1666-0	1665-0	1664-0	1663-0	1662-0	1661-0	1660-0	1659-0	1658-0	1657-0	1656-0	1655-0	1654-0	1653-0	1652-0	1651-0	1650-0	1649-0	1648-0	1647-0	1646-0	1645-0	1644-0	1643-0	1642-0	1641-0	1640-0	1639-0	1638-0	1637-0	1636-0	1635-0	1634-0	1633-0	1632-0	1631-0	1630-0	1629-0	1628-0	1627-0	1626-0	1625-0	1624-0	1623-0	1622-0	1621-0	1620-0	1619-0	1618-0	1617-0	1616-0	1615-0	1614-0	1613-0	1612-0	1611-0	1610-0	1609-0	1608-0	1607-0	1606-0	1605-0	1604-0	1603-0	1602-0	1601-0	1600-0	1599-0	1598-0	1597-0	1596-0	1595-0	1594-0	1593-0	1592-0	1591-0	1590-0	1589-0	1588-0	1587-0	1586-0	1585-0	1584-0	1583-0	1582-0	1581-0	1580-0	1579-0	1578-0	1577-0	1576-0	1575-0	1574-0	1573-0	1572-0	1571-0	1570-0	1569-0	1568-0	1567-0	1566-0	1565-0	1564-0	1563-0	1562-0	1561-0	1560-0	1559-0	1558-0	1557-0	1556-0	1555-0	1554-0	1553-0	1552-0	1551-0	1550-0	1549-0	1548-0	1547-0	1546-0	1545-0	1544-0	1543-0	1542-0	1541-0	1540-0	1539-0	1538-0	1537-0	1536-0	1535-0	1534-0	1533-0	1532-0	1531-0	1530-0	1529-0	1528-0	1527-0	1526-0	1525-0	1524-0	1523-0	1522-0	1521-0	1520-0	1519-0	1518-0	1517-0	1516-0	1515-0	1514-0	1513-0	1512-0	1511-0	1510-0	1509-0	1508-0	1507-0	1506-0	1505-0	1504-0	1503-0	1502-0	1501-0	1500-0	1499-0	1498-0	1497-0	1496-0	1495-0	1494-0	1493-0	1492-0	1491-0	1490-0	1489-0	1488-0	1487-0	1486-0	1485-0	1484-0	1483-0	1482-0	1481-0	1480-0	1479-0	1478-0	1477-0	1476-0	1475-0	1474-0	1473-0	1472-0	1471-0	1470-0	1469-0	1468-0	1467-0	1466-0	1465-0	1464-0	1463-0	1462-0	1461-0	1460-0	1459-0	1458-0	1457-0	1456-0	1455-0	1454-0	1453-0	1452-0	1451-0	1450-0	1449-0	1448-0	1447-0	1446-0	1445-0	1444-0	1443-0	1442-0	1441-0	1440-0	1439-0	1438-0	1437-0	1436-0	1435-0	1434-0	1433-0	1432-0	1431-0	1430-0	1429-0	1428-0	1427-0	1426-0	1425-0	1424-0	1423-0	1422-0	1421-0	1420-0	1419-0	1418-0	1417-0	1416-0	1415-0	1414-0	1413-0	1412-0	1411-0	1410-0	1409-0	1408-0	1407-0	1406-0	1405-0	1404-0	1403-0	1402-0	1401-0	1400-0	1399-0	1398-0	1397-0	1396-0	1395-0	1394-0	1393-0	1392-0	1391-0	1390-0	1389-0	1388-0	1387-0	1386-0	1385-0	1384-0	1383-0	1382-0	1381-0	1380-0	1379-0	1378-0	1377-0	1376-0	1375-0	1374-0	1373-0	1372-0	1371-0	1370-0	1369-0	1368-0	1367-0	1366-0	1365-0	1364-0	1363-0	1362-0	1361-0	1360-0	1359-0	1358-0	1357-0	1356-0	1355-0	1354-0	1353-0	1352-0	1351-0	1350-0	1349-0	1348-0	1347-0	1346-0	1345-0	1344-0	1343-0	1342-0	1341-0	1340-0	1339-0	1338-0	1337-0	1336-0	1335-0	1334-0	1333-0	1332-0	1331-0	1330-0	1329-0	1328-0	1327-0	1326-0	1325-0	1324-0	1323-0	1322-0	1321-0	1320-0	1319-0	1318-0	1317-0	1316-0	1315-0	1314-0	1313-0	1312-0	1311-0	1310-0	1309-0	1308-0	1307-0	1306-0	1305-0	1304-0	1303-0	1302-0	1301-0	1300-0	1299-0	1298-0	1297-0	1296-0	1295-0	1294-0	1293-0	1292-0	1291-0	1290-0	1289-0	1288-0	1287-0	1286-0	1285-0	1284-0	1283-0	1282-0	1281-0	1280-0	1279-0	1278-0	1277-0	1276-0	127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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Earnings accelerate to annual rate of 21.2 pc with further rise in sight

By Caroline Atkinson

Pay rises accelerated in April, and are likely to get even higher in May. Government figures released yesterday showed the underlying level was about 21.5 per cent in April, compared with about 20 per cent in March.

In the year to April, average earnings in the economy as a whole went up by 21.2 per cent — the highest annual rise for more than four years. The index showed a rise of 20.3 per cent in the 12 months to March.

Officials expect even worse figures in the months to come, as more and more of the settlements in this pay round feed into the index of earnings.

The wage round is turning out to be much more inflationary than the Government or the Treasury forecasters expected.

Earlier this year the internal forecast in the Treasury was for an overall rise of about 20 per cent in this pay round, of which about 2 per cent would be due to the Clegg comparability payments.

It is still thought that the latter figure is accurate. Most of the Clegg awards have now been made and about three

quarters of their effect on earnings has now fed through. Local authority pay settlements have yet to be fully reflected in the index, and are one factor which is expected to make next month's figures for May look worse.

Another element which will boost the earnings index is the ending of the steel strike, and the subsequent recovery in earnings in the steel industry. The speeding up of pay rises over the last year has occurred despite a sharp drop in overtime working. It is estimated that overtime worked in industry dropped by more than four million hours between April 1979 and April 1980. This reflects the onset of recession.

The Government hopes that the economic slowdown will feed through soon to wage settlements. So far it has taken much longer than ministers expected for wages to reflect the increasingly tough trading conditions for industry.

There is a growing campaign to make wage bargainers lower their expectations for the next pay round, beginning in the summer. Ministers have insisted that people must be willing to accept cuts in real earnings, after allowing for inflation. If price rises are to come down as hoped.

However, the evidence so far is that real incomes are being maintained, and that industry is not holding out against large pay rises.

The Government has, of course, paid big increases to its own employees in this pay round, largely because of the overhang of backdated Clegg awards. Ministers are expected to take a firmer line on public sector pay in the next pay round.

More than half of the 1.1 per cent rise in earnings during April was due to the payment of staged increases to public sector workers, including nurses and local authority workers.

The older earnings index covers only about 11 million employees, compared with the 21 million in the new series. These are mostly private sector workers, so a comparison of the two indices gives a guide to different trends in public and private pay deals.

In the year to April, the old index went up by 19.6 per cent, compared to the 21.2 per cent on the new index.

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### S Africa to withhold 1m oz of gold

By Michael Prest

Important changes in the gold market and in the financing of South African gold mines' current expenditure could follow a series of policy announcements yesterday by the South African Reserve Bank.

Mr Chris Stals, the bank's deputy governor, said that it planned to withhold 1 million ounces of gold from the market this year, or about five per cent of South Africa's likely gold production in 1980. Last year the country produced 703 tonnes, equal to 70 per cent of western output.

Mr Stals said that the bank would allow mines to sell gold forward. This is seen by analysts in London as an

important compromise, because the mines have been wanting to sell gold directly. They can only sell to the reserve bank on specific days, but the bank can sell when it wishes.

The mines will have to obtain foreign exchange permission from the reserve bank if they want to sell their output forward.

But assuming such permission is granted, the big advantage for the mines, particularly those like West Driefontein which have big capital spending, is that the proceeds from future sales can finance investment without affecting dividends.

The mines could also have a distinct fillip to the futures market, especially in New York

and Chicago, because London only has a physical bullion market. Supplying 1 million ounces less to the physical market could result in thinner and more volatile trading.

It would allow the South African Government to deal directly with potential large buyers of physical gold. For some time there have been market rumours about possible deals between South Africa and oil producers. Mr Stals said, however, that the bank's policy will be to average sales over a period of full production.

He confirmed that last year South Africa sold 100 tonnes of gold more than it mined. The extra came from swap gold deposited with Swiss banks.

In effect, this means that if the bank does withhold 1 mil-

lion ounces, and if no gold is sold this year other than that mined, total South African sales will be about 5 million ounces less than in 1979. Swiss banks still hold 4 million ounces of gold on South Africa's behalf.

The main reason for the decision to keep gold from the market is the country's strong balance of payments. But the government is also apparently assuming that the price will rise from current levels of about \$602 an ounce.

After the dramatic surge earlier in the year which took the price to \$850, it fell back. After a rise of around \$100 in the last two weeks, some sources feel that gold is set for another increase.

### Verdicts on House of Fraser votes today

By Catherine Gunn

Reports were circulating in the City that Mr Rowland ("Tiny") Rowland had lost his attempt to force three more of his Lomro colleagues on to the House of Fraser board and to increase the net final dividend from 4p to 6p, as the last proxy forms were being counted last night. Lomro refused to confirm the reports.

The truth will be known after today's annual meeting, which starts at midday in Glasgow's Merchants House. The attempt to force up the dividend against the rest of the House of Fraser board, which wishes to keep the dividend at 4p, has had only a slim chance of success.

But the move to replace the three directors retiring by rotation with three Lomro men only needs a majority of the completed proxies and the votes cast at the meeting itself. Lomro owns almost 30 per cent of the ordinary shares.

Sir Hugh Fraser, House of Fraser chairman, has regarded the issue of directors' as the most important vote. He has described the Lomro assault as an attempt to gain "creeping control" without compensating the shareholders.

If Mr Rowland fails, this will certainly not be his final move. He is House of Fraser's non-executive deputy chairman, and both he and Lord Duncan Sauson, Lomro chairman, remain on the House of Fraser board.

An autumn bid is widely expected if Mr Rowland loses today. By then Fraser will have announced interim pre-tax profits that are likely to be poor, reflecting the decline in consumer spending, which is making trading conditions much tougher for retailing.

Lomro's ability to raise loyal institutional and private supporters away is in question. The company is valued at £220m by the stock market, sufficient cash to wear Fraser's while Sir Hugh says that it is worth more than £250m. A property revaluation is nearing completion.

### Lack of support forces CBI to drop strike insurance scheme

By Patricia Tisdall

The Confederation of British Industry has opted for discretion rather than valour and decided to drop the idea of a mutual strike insurance fund.

The consensus of the CBI's policy-making council yesterday was encouraging, to say the least, but it was not enough support from members for the proposal to achieve its main objective of influencing the overall industrial relations climate.

The council therefore accepted the recommendation of the committee led by Sir Raymond Penneck, the new president that the fund should not be implemented as originally envisaged.

However, the results of preliminary research are sufficiently encouraging to lead the consortium of insurance brokers who devised the scheme for them to attempt to introduce it as a commercial venture.

In this they will have the active encouragement if not tangible support from the CBI.

A survey of 4,000 CBI organizations showed that 50 per cent of the respondents were in favour of the fund and wanted to join. Only 30 of the organizations surveyed expressed active hostility.

Sir Raymond said yesterday his committee would have liked support from a higher percentage — say 70 to 80 per cent — before going ahead under the CBI banner.

The employers' decision not to proceed with the fund will add a conciliatory note to the bilateral talks with the TUC, started at the National Economic Development Council and due to be resumed next month. Sir Raymond described the talks held so far as being "frank and full of candour rather than cosy".

While the discussions are intended to cover the whole

economic framework, the CBI will press the TUC to use its influence to moderate wage settlements in the next pay round.

Employers are expressing serious anxiety about the effects of another set of high pay increases. Their views are likely to be reinforced at internal CBI conferences dealing specifically with pay which are to be held this weekend.

Sir Raymond emphasized the importance of companies communicating the economic realities to their employees. CBI research indicates that companies who succeeded in doing this in the last pay round were able to obtain a lower level of settlement.

"Life is getting bloody rough now and people have got to recognize it," said the CBI believes settlements are going to have to be well below the year-on-year figure for the retail price index.

### Profits slip at Tesco

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Tesco Stores, the supermarket group which yesterday unveiled an unexpected drop in pre-tax profits from £37.7m to £26.5m is phasing out Home 'n' Wear — its clothes and consumer goods operation — from its smaller stores.

The group announced yesterday that 70 Home 'n' Wear units had been taken out of stores in the 15,000 to 20,000 square foot range and that this policy would continue. Home 'n' Wear selling space would decline by one-tenth in the current year.

Tesco said this would allow the smaller stores to concentrate on selling foods. However, the change of policy does not represent any lessening of Tesco's commitment to non-foods. Home 'n' Wear will remain in the larger stores and where it is already established as a separate unit. Mr Leslie Porter, Tesco's chairman, said the division "has a bright future in the longer term".

The disappointing sales performance of non-foods, estimated to account for one-fifth of group sales, was one reason that Tesco's profits fell instead of increasing to an expected £40m. Profitability at Home 'n' Wear suffered from the rise in VAT and low level of consumer spending.

Group profits also suffered from the cost of financing the expansion programme, which will increase selling space by one-third to 8 million square feet by 1984.

Tesco's sales in the year to February 23 rose from £1,202m to £1,513m excluding VAT. The year-end net debt was £62m compared with net cash of £20m.

Financial Editor, page 29

### NEB chief to review Inmos future after delay of state funds

By Edward Townsend

Sir Arthur Knight, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, yesterday reaffirmed his faith in the board's Inmos subsidiary but said that the whole project would have to be reviewed because of government delay in approving funds.

Speaking to the Commons select committee on industry and trade, Sir Arthur said the board's decision to proceed with Inmos and seek a second tranche of £25m state funding was taken last December.

He regarded the project as a good one, leading to import saving and promotion of exports, but said: "I must now review the whole situation because six months have passed without a decision."

Sir Arthur was reluctant to divulge to MPs what plans the NEB had for Inmos if the state cash was not forthcoming.

"Without the £25m there are a number of possible future," he said. He conceded that the delay had caused "some damaging effect".

Inmos was backed originally by the previous NEB under the chairmanship of Sir Leslie Murphy which considered an investment of £50m in two tranches was necessary for its development.

The first £25m went chiefly in setting up the Inmos United States development laboratory and factory in Colorado Springs and the second is intended to fund a British facility at Bristol.

Sir Arthur said that the United Kingdom operation would provide the country not just with a silicon chip manufacturing capability but also the ability to develop future generations of equipment.

In a memorandum to the

committee the NEB said: "Integrated circuits will be one of industry's key raw materials in the future. Yet until Inmos was launched there were no plans to establish a United Kingdom capability in the design and manufacture of high-volume standard integrated circuits."

"The Inmos management had seen its proposed United Kingdom plant as making a major contribution to import substitution and to export expansion principally to the United States, continental Europe and Japan, amounting to around £100m a year by 1984. But there must now be some doubt about this."

Sir Arthur added that the previous NEB had decided to back Inmos because the project required "patient money" that the commercial financial institutions were reluctant to provide. "We still have a project which in terms of private investment looks risky," he said.

In other countries such as the United States, such projects would have got off the ground with the commitment of private investors. But Sir Arthur was confident that the second £25m would be "sufficient from the public purse".

The committee was told that the NEB's main role now was to be involved in high technology. This covered activities that would generate imports unless there was a strong British base. Sir Arthur added that the board's substantial holdings in "lame duck" companies would be reviewed individually during the next six months.

### Government set to back N Sea gas expansion

By John Huxley

Development of a gas gathering system in the northern North Sea will support "one, or probably two, world class ethane crackers" to handle natural gas liquids, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday.

He told an audience of oilmen in London that the Government was anxious to encourage new petrochemical development based on the substantial quantities of natural gas liquids that will be made available.

Mr Howell is expected to give details of government proposals for a gas gathering system this week. His department has been considering a feasibility study carried out by British Gas and Mobil

All the indications are that the Government will decide to go ahead with a system, costing anything up to £200m, and that private companies will be asked to participate.

However, the scope of the pipeline network remains in doubt. British Petroleum has been calling for a more extensive system than it is believed the Government has in mind.

Mr Howell's remarks also come at a time when there is disagreement within the petrochemical industry over access to and use of the natural gas liquids to be made available.

There is concern that the liquids could provide the basis for an unjustifiable expansion of capacity in the United Kingdom for producing ethylene, the

so-called building block of the chemicals industry.

Esso already has advanced plans to build a cracker at Mossburn in Fife, while ICI and BP recently brought on stream a cracker at Teesside, a joint venture cracker capable of using gas liquids, like ethane, as well as the traditional feedstock, naphtha.

Most controversy has centred on the plan to build a £500m cracker at Nigg Bay, on the Cromarty Firth. These depend upon the company having access to North Sea gas feedstocks.

Mr Howell said the Government saw several options on the handling of gas liquids. But he declined to elaborate on alternatives, except to say that

### News silver contract

The Chicago board of trade has voted to produce a 1,000-ounce silver-futures contract, one-fifth the size of its existing silver contract, to encourage more people to trade the metal.

### Lloyd's hint of moves to settle Sasse claims

By Richard Allen

A further hint that litigation over the Sasse syndicate affair may be settled out of court was given by Mr Peter Green, chairman of Lloyd's, in his annual statement to members yesterday.

Referring to actions in which certain underwriting members are disputing liabilities over syndicate losses totalling more than £20m, Mr Green said: "It would be naive to think that with so much money and expense involved as in this case, opportunities of ways to seek an out-of-court settlement are never discussed."

However, he disclaimed a recent suggestion that a meeting had taken place between him and underwriting agents with a view to working out a compromise settlement.

Mr Green also attacked suggestions that Lloyd's Central Fund might be used to make loans to underwriting members who had suffered heavy losses. These displayed "a basic misconception" because the fund was created to protect policy-

holders and not underwriting names.

Mr Green caused some surprise by mentioning several issues widely expected to be covered in the Fisher Report on Lloyd's affairs due to be published next week.

He referred in terse terms to growing criticism of the Lloyd's market for its daily handling of the routine of insurance and especially the delay in claims proceeds reaching those insured.

"The Lloyd's chairman said he had received frequent complaints from all parts of the world and that invidious comparisons had been drawn between the payment by local insurers within a matter of hours and the weeks or months it took to receive payments from Lloyd's."

"The time for exhortation is past," he said. All complaints would in future be referred to the chairman or deputy and serious cases would be investigated by officials.

Mr Green also said that Lloyd's members who are officially liable to the full extent



Mr Green: tighter check on payment prospects.

of their possessions in meeting claims) would in future be obliged to confirm every four years that their wealth status met the level shown in their original "means test".

He referred to delays caused by Lloyd's cumbersome disciplinary procedures — another topic expected to be extensively covered in Sir Henry Fisher's report — and said: "Your committee must find better disciplinary procedures."

# UBM Group Limited

## A Record Year

Michael Phillips, Chairman, reviews the year ended 29th February, 1980.

- \* Pre-tax profits more than doubled at £121M.
- \* Total dividend up 16% to 5½p.
- \* Revaluation of properties reveals surplus of some £21M.
- \* Group's borrowings cut to 18% of shareholders funds.

“Benefits still to come from reduction in costs and improved efficiency — since the beginning of new financial year more difficult trading conditions — nevertheless, the Group now in a much stronger position to face these conditions and to take advantage of suitable opportunities to expand its businesses.”

For a copy of the full Report write to The Secretary, UBM Group Limited, Avon Works, Wintarsale Road, Bristol, BS99 7PL.

Builders Merchants: Motor Dealers: Glass Merchants: Scaffolding Contractors: Overseas Merchants.

### PRICE CHANGES

16p to 77p	11p to 43p
10p to 27p	10p to 35p
12p to 30p	10p to 37p
22p to 63p	10p to 96p
13p to 75p	

16p to 28p	16p to 28p
5p to 18p	4p to 17p
5p to 40p	4p to 12p
5p to 51p	4p to 23p
13p to 38p	5p to 47p

### THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
buys	sells	buys	sells
2.08	2.01	11.68	11.18
30.50	28.80	116.50	110.50
68.75	65.25	12.14	12.00
2.72	2.65	165.50	158.50
13.15	11.60	10.85	9.60
8.82	8.42	3.96	3.74
9.35	9.45	2.38	2.32
4.28	4.06	66.00	61.00
102.00	97.00		
11.65	11.20		
1.12	1.08		
1995.00	1905.00		
525.00	500.00		
4.68	4.45		

### Footwear import talks promised

By Derek Harris

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister for Trade, will hold discussions with the Brazilian government over complaints that the footwear imports into Britain are soaring.

British manufacturers say the prices of Brazilian goods are being kept low artificially by subsidies of at least 15 per cent.

Mr Parkinson yesterday told an all-party footwear group of MPs, led by Mr Peter Fry, Conservative MP for Wellingborough, that a meeting with the Brazilian government would be arranged soon.

The minister has said to meet industry leaders to review their formal application for the Government to back action against Brazil under article 19 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Mr Parkinson told MPs that the Brazilian imports represented only 3 per cent of the British market. However he accepted that there was growing resentment in the industry at the accelerated rate at which Brazil was exporting.

Already Brazil has become Britain's fifth largest foreign supplier and in the first quarter sent in 1.2 million pairs of footwear compared with a 1979 total of 3.2 million.

The Brazilian makers are claimed to be escaping the effects of a 30 per cent export tariff which the Brazilians last year placed on supplies of finished leather to world markets — effectively subsidising the Brazilian manufacturers by at least 15 per cent.

But Mr Parkinson resisted pressures from the MPs for a reduction in quotas of east European footwear although he promised to stand firm against

arguments for quota increases.

Mr Parkinson gave warning of the danger with any quota system of forcing importers to concentrate further upmarket to capitalize on greater price values. This would threaten a market sector where British makers were most likely to remain competitive.

Mr Parkinson gave a cool reception to the idea of an agreement for footwear on the lines of the Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA) for textiles.

Under the MFA agreement only 25 per cent of textile imports were controlled while in footwear there were already controls on 25 per cent of imports.

Action is further individual instances of import difficulty could lead to the 25 per cent control of footwear imports being increased.





## Sharp fall in Japan's payments deficit

Japan's overall balance of payments deficit narrowed sharply to \$250m (£103m) in May from an upwards revised \$5,380m April deficit, and compared with a \$7,541m deficit a year earlier, the finance ministry in Tokyo said in a preliminary report.

The May current account deficit narrowed to \$1,730m from a revised \$1,920m April deficit, and compared with a \$889m deficit a year ago.

The May preliminary trade deficit narrowed to \$656m from an upwards revised \$831m April deficit, compared with a \$4m deficit a year earlier.

The deficit on invisible trade and transfer payments was \$1,100m, compared with a \$1,090m deficit in April and an \$885m deficit a year ago.

**International loans**  
Borrowings on the international capital market in April totalled \$8,151m (£3,313m), or 4.1 per cent more than in March, latest data released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris reveal. The increase reflects a 16.6 per cent increase in the total value of external bond issues floated during the month to \$3,412m.

**Baltic oil drilling**  
Petrobaltika, a joint venture between East Germany, the Soviet Union and Poland, is ready to start drilling for oil in the Baltic Sea, the East German News agency ADP says. Technical preparations are almost complete.

**Revised profits up**  
The Commerce Department in Washington has raised its estimate of United States first quarter after-tax profits to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$158,000m (about \$5,000m) from a rate of \$155,500m reported last month.

**New takeover code**  
Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian deputy prime minister, said in Kuala Lumpur that the Government was taking steps to draw up a code on takeovers and mergers to protect the interest of investors.

**Aid cuts threat**  
The Environmental Protection Agency in Washington has threatened to cut off \$700m (nearly £302m) in Federal money for California unless the state sets up programmes to inspect car pollution-control equipment.

**Tight money policy**  
Mr Haruo Masekawa, governor of the Bank of Japan, says the bank will stick to its tight money policy, because it is too early to say that the prices in Japan have been stabilized.

**Shale oil plans**  
Mr Clifton C. Garvin Jr, chairman of Exxon, says in Houston the corporation will build 150 plants in Colorado capable of producing a total of eight million barrels a day of synthetic fuels by 2010. The scheme will cost \$500,000m (£215,517m).

**Foreign debt rise**  
Belgian foreign debt rose by 17,540m francs (about £268m) in the week to June 16, national bank figures show. Belgium's foreign currency reserves rose by 13,940m francs to 103,880m while the country's ECU holdings rose 3,600m to 91,230m.

Wider choice of winter holidays offered to beat recession

## Late rush for summer holidays before winter downturn

Despite reports from some travel agents of more summer package holidays being cancelled, leading tour operators are still reporting strong demand in late sales of holidays with the prospect of the main season finishing at least 5 per cent up in volume compared with last year.

Even though evidence is mounting of sharply increased recession effects, especially outside the south east, the Halifax Building Society yesterday said there had been little change so far in the seasonal pattern of withdrawals of funds to meet costs of holidays.

But next winter looks like bringing a sharp dose of discontent. More winter holidays are being offered in a scramble for volume sales, while many in the industry are expecting overall sales to decline.

Prices are about 8 to 10 per cent up on last year. Unless bookings improve, a rash of late season price-cutting seems inevitable.

As holidaymakers become more choosy on prices the direct sell holiday companies are expected to increase their market share which has already risen from 3 per cent to an estimated 9 per cent in the past three years.

Direct sell operators, which cut out the traditional travel agent and claim to sell comparable holidays usually around 10 per cent below the prices of tour operators using the travel agent network, could have an estimated 20 per cent and 25 per cent of the market within three years according to Mr Paul Brett, managing director of Portland Holidays, the latest entrant in the direct sell field.

So far Portland has achieved a load figure of more than 95 per cent this year and expects to finish the season, during which some 40,000 holidays are being

offered, with an overall loading of 80 per cent.

Portland, which has been operating for eight months, will offer 25,000 holidays in the winter market which is running at around 1.5 million holidays compared with the 3.3 million in the main season.

The big question for such direct sell operators, as for the conventional tour operators, is how far these holidays can be sold at full price rather than by late deep price-cutting.

Tour operators, including three of the larger companies, are all offering more winter holidays. Cosmos has increased its winter programme by 21 per cent with 160,000 holidays on offer, and a key sales push on cheap holidays to destinations like China, Hongkong and Thailand.

Thomson Holidays, the largest tour operator, has a 400,000 winter holidays programme, up 15 per cent on last year. Although it has raised winter holiday prices by just over 8 per cent, it estimates that overall winter holiday capacity is likely to be up between 10 and 15 per cent, with bookings off to a slower start than last year.

Thomson hopes the keen winter prices will keep demand up in spite of more difficult economic conditions and forecasts that the market should largely hold up, possibly with a fractional downturn overall.

Thomson admits it could be "a tough winter" and that bookings are likely to be late, but has been encouraged by the fact that the market should largely hold up. It says volumes were up by around 8 per cent in the past two months, and sales are reported to be going well for September and October. Of 600,000 main season holidays on offer more than 90 per cent have been sold.

But a decline in the winter market is forecast by Mr Harry Goodman, chairman of Intasun, whose prices are being held low in the hope it will give it a market share increase of between 12 and 14 per cent.

Intasun claims that a two week winter holiday for a family of three in a Miami Beach hotel will be cheaper by £576 compared with leading competitors, and that a £428 Hawaii two week holiday will undercut one competitor by more than £200.

It was Intasun's dash for a volume tourist market in the United States that has been taking British tourists to Miami Beach for less than £200 per head for a week, and Mr Goodman claims that the Miami programme of 100,000 holidays is paying off in spite of some problems.

Intasun had some early teething troubles with the programme. Two hotels were dropped as unsatisfactory, and this was followed by riots some 15 miles from the resort.

But in two months Intasun took 20,000 British holidaymakers to Miami and the Bahamas on up to 11 charter flights a week. It will be offering 20,000 Miami holidays in the Florida high season this winter, starting at just under £200 for seven nights, although rising to over £300 and more than £400 for a fortnight.

But Mr Goodman admits there has been a reaction of those holidaymakers yet to experience this summer's high temperatures and high humidity in Florida.

An upsurge in dissatisfaction—there is only a 2 per cent complaints rate at present—might hit next year's sales volume that is the key to keeping prices down.

Derek Harris

## Setback for Italy's anti-inflation measures

By John Earle

Rome, June 18

Signor Filippo Maria Pandolfi, the Italian treasury minister, has taken to task his colleagues, Signor Antonio Bisaglia, the minister of industry, for allegedly hampering the formulation of urgent measures to combat inflation and deal with the impending recession.

Two days ago Signor Bisaglia predicted that the government would modify the inflationary effect of the scale mobile, the automatic indexed wage adjustment, by intervening on the payment of social service charges, increasing value added tax, revising the energy plan, and other measures.

There was an immediate hostile reaction from trade union leaders, who reject any tampering with the scale mobile.

Signor Pandolfi said any forecasts were premature. "The manoeuvre in economic policy which the government is preparing to undertake cannot be reduced to several single measures, nor can it be judged in ignorance of the overall picture which is much more complex than is generally realized."

Signor Pandolfi is said to be concerned that partial disclosures of the measures had led to a hostile reception from the unions which could have been avoided by keeping quiet.

Although the Pandolfi measures are still being prepared, it is likely to be based on a combination of increasing state payment of social service charges, higher value added tax, the trimming of public expenditure, the introduction of a law to allow revaluation of fixed assets and adjustments to the scale mobile.

Rationalization of the civil service's working hours and price incentives on the use of energy in the Mezzogiorno industrial region are also being considered. Energy price cuts in the region could encourage consumption of the Algerian methane to be brought there by the Transmed pipeline.

## Call to devise national strategy for all information technology

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Editor

A proposal that the Government should devise a national strategy for information technology, embracing all aspects of computers, microelectronics and telecommunications, has been put to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, by Mr Kenneth Baker, MP, chairman of the Conservative backbench industry committee.

Mr Baker is urging that, rather than attempt to arrest the decline of the older, dying industries, the Government should look to the new industries which could lead to expansion and the creation of new wealth.

At a business telecommunications conference in London organized by Online Conferences yesterday, Mr Baker outlined a programme which he had discussed with Sir Keith. His first point was that a minister for information technology should be appointed within the Department of Industry.

This, he said, was not a gimmick; it was essential to have a focal point in government

for this diverse industry. Neither would it entail a new bureaucracy; the departments involved already existed.

The Government should prepare and publish a policy document on "Information technology in the United Kingdom in the 1980s". It should embody a programme outlining the opportunities and pointing out how they could be maximized.

Next, the Departments of Industry and of Trade should initiate a strong programme to sell the products of Britain's information technology industry abroad.

Also, the Government should announce a new procurement policy to replace the ICL-oriented policy with one concerned with a broader national interest. The "national interest" must be broadly defined to encompass terminals, peripherals, software and research as well as computer hardware.

The Government should identify applications for advanced systems within its own

activities, and procure them from the British information technology industry.

These could include the introduction of the "electronic office" in Whitehall; the use of Prestel; the wider use of computers in the health services; microcomputers for schools; a more concentrated national space programme; energy saving in buildings; and the improvement of telecommunications, particularly in the City of London.

Mr Baker's other proposals included: corporation tax should be changed to reduce or eliminate the discrimination against service companies; the new minister should take the lead in setting up technology agreements between unions and employers; the Government's research and development programme should involve industry; the enterprise zones should be the focus of a major initiative in promoting information technology in small companies; and the Government should ensure that all levels in the new skills.

## Consumer credit Act 'a landmark of the 1970s'

By Robin Young

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The licensing provisions of the Consumer Credit Act have been a landmark of the 1970s, Mr Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, said in his annual report yesterday.

Mr Borrie said the provisions, which involved licensing almost everyone concerned with consumer credit, had been criticized as "a sledgehammer to crack a nut", but had already proved valuable and would demonstrate their value increasingly in future.

He said: "Before the Act some very undesirable people were concerned with credit agreements. They were not having much regard for the trail of financial misery they left behind."

His report shows that there

was a marked growth in 1979 in the number of licences revoked because the director general was dissatisfied with the conduct of the licensees. A total of 52 licences were refused or revoked in 1979 and a further 73 were still under consideration at the end of the year.

The report says the Office of Fair Trading is identifying more unfair practices which the director general sees as undesirable and which are possible grounds for refusing a consumer credit licence. These include selling cars that are not roadworthy and charging unjoined cancellation fees for home improvement work.

Mr Borrie said the main purpose of the Office of Fair Trading was unlikely to change in the 1980s. "The need to help ensure fairness in trading will remain."

## Birmid jobs dispute may spread

By Clifford Webb

Midland Industrial Correspondent

Workers throughout the Birmid Quaker Group may be asked to take industrial action to force management to drop plans to close its Birmid's wrought alloy plant at Quinton, near Birmingham, and dismiss 700 of the 900 employees there.

A meeting of Birmid workers has been called for this morning and will be recommended by the four unions involved to fight the closure. Workers could be asked to man picket lines to prevent the company transferring production machinery to its other factories.

Management representatives met union officials yesterday to hear their complaints about the company's action in sending dismissal notices to 700

## Imports pattern of oil nations

By John Whitmore

Financial Correspondent

One of the problems facing the western economies, according to the latest Bank of England Bulletin, is estimating how the oil exporting countries will deploy their increased income. The Bank suggests there are grounds for thinking that the money will not necessarily be spent in the near future to finance a substantial increase in imports.

In a special article the Bulletin draws together the figures for the oil exporting countries' balance of payments and overseas investment since the first major oil price rise in 1973. These point to a significant slowdown in import volume in the latter part of the 1970s, particularly by those countries that have tended to use most of their export income to purchase goods overseas.

At the same time the Bank notes that, despite the much larger financial surplus that can be expected as a result of recent oil price increases, the exporting countries' funds are being deployed among a much larger number of banks than was the case in the mid-1970s. This has meant less pressure than would otherwise have been the case on the capital ratios of the largest banks.

The accompanying table summarizes a number of more detailed tables the Bank has assembled from various sources.

Also included in the current Bulletin is a special article on the use that companies are

making of inflation accounting for management purposes. The Bank conducted a survey of 40 companies and it revealed that about 40 per cent had a plans for inflation accounting (CCA). The Bulletin concludes that the most useful applications of CCA could be in helping to

decide dividend policy, helping to decide which activities should be run down or sold because of inadequate rates of return, determining the allocation of capital expenditure and determining the pricing of goods where these are not totally controlled by market forces.

Oil exporting countries									
Balance of payments \$000m and deployment of cash surplus									
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	(a)	end	1979
Oil and gas exports	37	116	107	130	144	138	213		
Total exports	41	123	113	138	154	148	225		
Imports	22	39	59	74	89	104	105		
Trade balance	+19	+84	+54	+64	+65	+44	+120		
Invisibles, etc	-13	-17	-25	-29	-38	-45	-46		
Current balance	+6	+67	+29	+35	+27	-1	+74		
External borrowing and other adjustments	-12	+7	+4	+11	+20	+5			
Cash surplus for investment	55	36	39	38	19	79	236		
Deployed:									
Bank deposits	28.6	9.9	12.0	13.0	3.9	37.3			
Short-term gov't securities	8.0	-0.4	-2.2	-1.1	-0.8	3.3			
Long-term gov't securities	1.1	2.4	4.4	4.5	-1.8	-0.7			
Other capital flows	7.1	12.8	13.2	9.8	5.8	9.0			
IMF and IBRD	3.5	4.0	2.0	0.3	0.1	-2.0			
Flow of funds to developing countries	4.9	6.5	6.4	7.0	6.2	6.9			
Unidentified items	1.9	1.1	2.8	4.1	5.4	25.2			
Deployed in UK	6.0	-	-2.1	0.5	0.2	2.2	8.6		
In sterling assets	15.0	4.3	6.6	3.3	2.0	15.0	48.3		
In other currencies	11.7	9.6	12.1	9.1	1.3	8.9	55.4		
Deployed in the US	20.5	21.3	19.2	20.6	13.9	27.7	123.7		

Oil exporting countries are defined as the thirteen members of Opec together with Trinidad and Tobago, Bahrain, Brunei and Oman.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Consequences of monetarism

From Professor I. F. Pearce  
Sir, I can hardly believe that there exists or ever has existed an economist who does not, or did not, share Professor Hayek's "conviction" (*The Times*, June 13) that "the value of money is wholly determined by the magnitude of the supply of money in relation to the demand for holding it".

The matter for immediate concern is not this incontrovertible theorem, but rather its equally incontrovertible consequence, given that the cost of supplying money is zero. Anything which costs nothing to produce must be worth nothing in the long run. How, and for how long, can a stable value in exchange be preserved for a free good?

Professors Hayek and Friedman have, each in his own way, sought to solve the problem by recommending physical controls either upon the supply or upon the demand for money, or both; upon demand by requiring the government to balance its budget (presumably at the same time insisting that private persons and private industry should balance their budgets) or upon supply by ordering the closure of the printing presses against the will of those who presently operate them for profit.

Does it not seem strange that our most rigorous and articulate advocates of free

markets, wise and experienced as they are, should, when they come to their money market, turn upon their principles and press for controls? Why not instead establish a fixed real cost of production for money, forget the controls and allow the laws of supply and demand to take their course?

One way to do this would be simply to change the wording on our bank notes. Instead of the legend "I promise to pay the bearer on demand the sum of one pound" we might substitute, and give effect to, an alternative "I promise to pay, 30 days after the surrender of this note for destruction, the sum of one pound multiplied by the level of the designated cost of living index on the date of surrender". At the same time anyone who wishes to have a new bank note printed might be required to buy it at a price similarly calculated.

If any reader feels disposed to frivolous let him think hard and long on the reasons why the Chief Cashier of the Bank of England ever promised to pay anything in the first place. I fear, I mean, that the consequence of the apparently trivial change proposed above would be other than traumatic. A new one pound note of the recommended design might well be less of a real purchasing power. Nor

could anyone create it money without someone having produced goods responding value. No native forms of "money" could ever be "good money" drives out the Bank of England might disappear. Government would have actually to what they say when the "unions would be able to gain only for a share of the sale of the sale of the for the printed money, of the capital assets of the many they work for. trade unions would have used to "fighting for" mum wage cuts as well as union wage increases.

Professor Hayek is given the political will to can be terminated in and sooner or later. And when it is terminus will be necessary to do thing beforehand to co-society to the coming even if nothing more is able than an insistent of the alarm. Yours sincerely, I. F. PEARCE, Department of Economics, The University of Manchester, SO9 5NH, June 16.

## A 1,350% increase in the price of electricity

From Mr Alan Angus

Sir, I was particularly interested in the letter from Mr E. A. Smith (June 9), regarding the "cost of marketing electricity".

I own a small house in Brighton, Sussex, let into four separate flats, each being separately metered. I have charged direct to the tenant by the South Eastern Electricity Board, and in addition I am liable as owner to pay a small public ways (communal stairway) lighting charge on a flat area basis, and during the last financial year ending April, paid one bill of 85p showing meter readings on August 23, 1979 for 44p, and November 19, 1979 for 41p.

The South Eastern Electricity Board sent me a stereo-type letter on March 27 stating that flat rate prices were being withdrawn from March 31 and I was somewhat stunned to be told that future charges would be on a standard domestic price basis of 56.12 per quarter.

This represents inflation at over 1,350 per cent, approx. 1.35p per kWh, which is pretty good going even by today's standards and wonder if this is a record. I pointed out to the South Eastern Electricity Board that they

were already getting the benefit of rental/standing charges from the four meters of the tenants in the house, but to no avail.

In mitigation the South Eastern Electricity Board pleaded rising costs, that other tenants agreed this rise with the South Eastern Electricity Committee, a body to whom I have been able to make no representation, having been presented with a *fait accompli*, and they trust that I find their prices reasonable. Ultimately, of course, the tenants will have to pay, in addition to their own quarterly charges.

The Government really should take a close look at the whole public service monopoly situation, with a view to removing their monopoly power, and introducing competition in the form of private power companies.

I find these increases utterly exorbitant, and unreasonable, in all the circumstances, and especially as it is a matter of public safety. Yours sincerely, I. F. PEARCE, 4, Cissbury Gardens, Fiddon Valley, Worthing, Sussex BN14 0DX, June 16.

## An exports surrender?

From Mr Christopher Fogg

Sir, For Britain and British companies to survive we have to fight in the international markets against weapons such as special export incentives (Australia), long-term low interest financing (Scandinavia), below cost sales to generate hard currency (USSR), pricing policies set to achieve the long-term objective of foreign trading companies (Japan), special exporting low taxation companies (United States).

We have the self-inflicted injuries of high inflation, low productivity and high interest rates. We have the economic exporting disadvantages of a petro-currency.

I am now amazed to hear that it has been decided to cut out most of the assistance provided by the British Overseas Trade Board, easily the most important government initiative to new export initiative.

Have we, in fact, decided to surrender? CHRISTOPHER FOGG, Managing Director, Percy Fogg & Co Ltd, Gravesend, Kent, June 16.

London Transport's unfulfilled promise

From Mr A. M. Alexander  
Sir, On June 11, 1979, Mr L. J. Warmore (Letters, June 17) need not worry. As with so many large institutions in a monopoly situation, "promise" usually falls far short of fulfilment. Nor is this limited merely to the comparison of the timescale and belief "service"—at least on the Northern Line—nor to the ever-failing lifts at Goudge Street, or to the weeks it takes for an apology to be received in respect of complaints.

Around this time last year with a fanfare of trumpets, not all that different from that accompanying the voucher scheme, London Transport announced—in mitigation of a similar promise of savage price increases—a new freeze concession for long-term London commuter season ticket holders, namely the ability to travel in central London out of rush hours entirely free. On the implementation of the price

increase the concession was announced, the commuters of the autumn of 1979. The weather may be unseasonal, but 1979 has unequivocally passed, and where is the concession?

Not to be implemented it seems. The public relations department say because despite the good faith and honest belief "in the promise, they could not reach agreement with the booking office staff on the implementation. What private business offers discount terms, fails to honour them, and then excuses itself by saying that junior employees in the accounts department did not agree? The director of the department, however, says severe financial constraints have demanded a reappraisal. This is probably nearer the truth, and equally unacceptable, as a precedent for an excuse for London Transport to avoid its moral obligations, and fail to honour contractual ones.

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## Buyer's dilemma

From Miss Audrey Bayle  
Sir, Sixty years ago a list of the equivalent of new pence. Forty years ago the price was the same. Today very little has left. I have a list of 100 items, and the price of each item is the same as it was 60 years ago.

It is interesting to find that the price of a gallon of petrol is 11p, 11p of bread, 11p of butter, 11p of milk, 11p of eggs, 11p of coffee, 11p of tea, 11p of sugar, 11p of flour, 11p of rice, 11p of oil, 11p of meat, 11p of fruit, 11p of vegetables, 11p of clothing, 11p of housing, 11p of transport, 11p of education, 11p of health, 11p of recreation, 11p of culture, 11p of science, 11p of technology, 11p of industry, 11p of commerce, 11p of finance, 11p of law, 11p of politics, 11p of religion, 11p of philosophy, 11p of art, 11p of literature, 11p of music, 11p of sport, 11p of games, 11p of hobbies, 11p of pets, 11p of plants, 11p of animals, 11p of minerals, 11p of fossils, 11p of plants, 11p of animals, 11p of minerals, 11p of fossils, 11p of plants, 1



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# Tesco checked

blames its £1.1m drop in profits to on its huge expansion programme, being the setback as "an unavoidable step". That is certainly one way of g at it.

so's push for more selling space is more than it can generate. After ng £110m on new stores, refitting and tions, it ended the year to February h net overdrafts of £62m compared 20m net cash and has had to pay to the bank.

£4.8m turnaround to £3.2m of interest s more than explains the fall in i capital spending heading for per- 115m in the current year, as a further ) sq ft is added to selling space, is looking for ways to finance its A rights issue is ruled out but the nternal property valuation of £360m— over book value—points to some kind and leaseback scheme and there are ns that institutions may help finance uture store development.

financing package which emerges crucial to Tesco's stockmarket rating profits outlook is none too inspiring short-term with even the optimists



Sir John Gorton, chairman of Tesco.

looking for £41m in 1980-81. Unlike ry's, whose concentration of foods e main reason for its recent strong showing, Tesco's big involvement in ds through Home 'n' Wear is proving en at the moment and provides an valid explanation for the very nating 1979-80 results as Tesco's rary setback" argument.

second half at Home 'n' Wear was ing of a disaster after the June rise . Tesco absorbed this increase in e to keep sales moving but caught easonal lines like knitwear by the still found itself with very high which had to be liquidated with ark-downs.

is looking for better from the other appointments in 1979-80. Cartiers nly broke-even after reorganization id Tesco Ireland which made a loss. ig underperformed the market by ifth in the past year the shares, yield- per cent at 59½p after the 21 per cent d rise and selling on a prospective 10 or 11, need some encouraging n future financing to hold these

## and Aircraft ng higher

ig-term outlook for Westland Aircraft ll be cloudy but for the time-being up is going a long-way towards just- s newly won status as something of a arket high-flier.

shares surged up another 16p to 96p ay on news of an interim profits rise £2m to £10.6m—fully £3m above- utions.

in spite of the group's warning that : no normal pattern between first and half results it is not hard to make out for adjusting recent estimates of £20m for the full-year up to £25m or group has more than six months ord- hand, the balance sheet has been rmed to show net cash of around although boosted by advances on con-

tracts) and Westland has finally freed itself of nil-profit Lyx production for the MoD initial contract which caused heavy provisions in previous years.

Break-even work accounted for £22m of the £75m helicopter turnover in the first-half and points to second-half margins climbing from around 8.5 per cent to 12 per cent.

This could lift helicopter profits close to £10m in the second-half and there may be of course substantial claw-backs from 1977-78 provisions on top of that.

Add in the very long-term prospect (possibly eight years away) of a substantial boom from the joint project with the Italian Augusta group and the shares on a prospective fully-taxed p/e of under 6 and likely yield of close on 9 per cent would seem to have yet further scope.

The longer-term shadow, however, remains in the patchy ordering pattern which has emerged for military craft and doubts about Westland's ability as a relatively lowly capitalised group to compete in world market growing over capacity.

The break-up of the Arab British Helicopter venture has left a gaping hole in the future order book although the group still apparently has hopes of receiving compensation either in cash or in new orders.

Given the current fashion for defence stocks, however, the optimists are going to outnumber the pessimists for some months to come whatever the long-term picture.

## Bank Bulletin

### The question of pay

The main domestic theme of the latest Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin is the predictable one: pay settlements must fall appreciably in the next pay round. That says nothing new and the real interest continues to lie in just how rapidly it is all going to happen.

Certainly, there are signs that Government policy is starting to work its effects on small pockets in the manufacturing sector; and there has been plenty of noise over the past few weeks on the need for a more determined line on public sector pay. But still it is difficult to peer into the future with any great precision, and the Bank itself says that the full effect of present policies on wages and prices may not be seen for some time.

In other words, any hopes of a less restrictive policy posture may be fairly distant. That presumably does not entirely rule out the possibility of a small cut in MLR before all that long, but the Bank is quick to point out that real interest rates are scarcely high and that any large fall in rates must await a fall in the underlying rate of price inflation. The other risk in a rapid reduction in interest rates is, of course, the possible impact on sterling.

## Johnson Matthey

### Strong growth from banking

Johnson Matthey's dramatic final quarter increase in profits shows how important precious metals still are to the group, in spite of the increased emphasis in recent years on manufacturing and high technology investment. Pretax profits for the year to the end of March rose from £21.6m to £38.6m, of which some £18m was earned in the final three months.

In spite of the very high metal prices prevailing during that period, the outcome is about £8m above market expectations. The key was much higher commission earnings from the banking side, which with assets and reserves of some £40m is now a very substantial part of the whole operation.

On these figures, the final dividend of 17.1p making 21.4 gross for the year or an increase of 77 per cent, is covered just over three times. On current cost accounting it is likely to be comfortably covered twice. In addition, the shareholders are to receive a one for one scrip.

Such results clearly underpin last night's price of 288p at which level the share yield 7.4 per cent. But equally important for shareholders' peace of mind is the value of assets. The surplus arising on the revaluation of stocks at the end of the year was £56m.

## Economic notebook

### You cannot please all the people all the time

It is one of the most basic precepts of politics that you can not please everyone. Yet this fundamental rule of life seems to be suspended whenever economics is discussed.

The debate going on in the country at the moment about the Government's economic policies is being conducted between two schools, both of whom discuss the issue as if the policies would lead to all the good consequences one could possibly wish without any harmful effects at all.

Those who advocate tight monetary policy suggest that, contrary to all the evidence of history, their proposals do not imply any significant or lasting drop in output and employment. They suggest instead that any attempt to secure expansion of the real variables in the economy now leads to a greater crash later and usually throw in for good measure the suggestion that the speed with which retribution is delivered is growing every day.

They do this even though the evidence from our experience suggests that we lag, before a contractionary policy produces beneficial effects, have not decreased at all.

On the other hand the growing band of people who feel that the present combination of policies are leading to disaster seem to imply that their own policies will find some way out of the circle of inflation and unemployment which has dogged postwar governments.

The mixture of fiscal expansion and income policy which they recommend is often put forward as offering a combination of full employment and price stability.

What is most disturbing about both these schools is that they suggest that if it is possible to cure one economic problem we can cure them all; and if we cannot solve all our problems we cannot solve any of them.

In suggesting this identity, they follow a familiar path in British economic thought which tells us a lot about what is so hard to achieve in British society. For they are all examples of the belief that unless

we can find a perfect solution to all our problems there is nothing which can be done at all.

In holding this view, economists are acting firmly within the tradition of welfare economics in Britain. For at the heart of the dominant school of welfare analysis in the British economic tradition is a desire for perfection which has become an almost impenetrable barrier to change.

Economists are inclined to use Pareto (named after the originator) rules in assessing whether a change in the economy or society is desirable or not. These basically suggest that change can only be justified if some benefit and no one loses from the change.

It is easy to see just how pervasive this view is, particularly in public policy. Tax changes, for example, are discussed in terms of a notion of equity which implies that everyone who might be affected is left with their position unaltered as a result of the new policy.

The idea that a change in relative positions is actually desired is wholly alien to this school of thought. (Though not, of course, to the present Government which has shown

a quite unwelcome willingness to introduce change for the simple reason that things are not right as they are.)

The truth is that it is almost inconceivable that any policy meets the test for a Pareto gain, as it is called (though the abolition of the Department of the Environment and the redeployment of the staff to useful work is a good example).

In economics there are trade-offs; indeed, economics is usually all about trade-offs. That is why so much of the present debate on economic strategy is unhelpful. It suggests that, through monetary restraint or incomes policy, we can cure the problem of inflation; and that we can then go on to achieve balanced and sustainable growth.

This clearly does not fit in easily with any of the theories of how inflation is caused and how it can be cured. Let us assume that a combination of high exchange rates and high interest rates will in time force employers in manufacturing to

### 'Perfection has become an impenetrable barrier to change'

stand out against large pay settlements; and let us also assume that unions accept the disciplines which this implies and that lower pay settlements spread to the rest of the economy as the recession does its work.

What is the means for preventing a new upsurge in inflation if the economy ever shows signs of recovery?

If the only thing which can prevent employers giving excessive wage increases is imminent bankruptcy, how is it ever possible to allow industry to move on from the situation now in? This problem lies at the heart of the clear vision in emphasis which has occurred in Government thinking from the control of the money supply to concern with private sector bank lending.

In making a broadly monetarist view of the world, the Government has been falling back on the belief that it should squeeze the private sector and above all the manufacturing sector so that it will stand up to pay demands.

This approach may be the only one open to a government which rejects incomes policy and puts the defeat of inflation at the top of its list of priorities. Indeed, it may be the only policy which is open to a government which is not prepared to accept ever-accelerating inflation. But it is not the same as the constantly suggested position of the Government—which is that by defeating inflation we also provide the basis for expansion of real output.

It may be that it is worth paying the cost in terms of lost output which the present strategy involves; that is a political decision. But it does not follow that we should let the country's great deal of harm to pretend that there is no trade-off being accepted.

The Government frequently suggests that there is no alternative to the present policy. That is not true. The alternative to what they are doing is to do something different. It may be that all the alternatives are much worse than the present policy. But economists, in government and out of it, do no good by pretending that if we can please one set of people we shall please them all.

David Blake

# How the recession is starting to bite

Industrial output figures this week, indicating the sharpest downturn for five years, show recession biting in Britain in the first four months of the year. But in manufacturers' order books, in retailers' returns and behind bank counters there is evidence that the recessionary screw began to tighten in earnest six weeks or so ago. This has still to filter through to the official statistics.

The North was hit first—and hard, but nearly every region of the country, outside the south-east, is now experiencing a marked downturn in activity. "Both home and export orders were slipping by the end of the year but the shutters really came down with a bang during the first week of April," says Mr. Reginald Parkes, chairman of the Midlands region of the Confederation of British Industry.

"I fear there is worse to come because de-stocking will continue for at least another month. I fear that it will be the second half of next year before we really start moving."

High interest rates, sharply declining domestic demand and export efforts blunted by sterling's strength are hitting virtually every sector of industry in the region. There are only a few exceptions—the defence industries, energy-related goods and high technology electronic products.

Reports to the clearing banks from their regional offices point to fast deteriorating business conditions especially in the North-east, North-west and the Midlands.

Mr. Alan Davies of Barclays Bank economics department, says that until last month exports had held reasonably well notwithstanding the strength of the pound.

"But orders are now weakening and in some cases dramatically. There are companies, especially in engineering, whose order books have disappeared overnight."

Industry is not crying wolf, he says. "The position is becoming very serious indeed." All the banks are now witnessing de-stocking taking place in what one senior manager describes as a "ferocious" way.

A senior Midlands Bank economist says: "Inflationary costs that have hit industry are now being reflected in greater utilization of bank facilities by the manufacturing sector." In other words, some companies are having to stretch their balance sheets to expand, but simply to survive.

The North-east is traditionally the region most sensitive to economic downturns. Unemployment has risen nearly a full percentage point since the turn of the year, says "I had 9.7 per cent last month compared with the national figure of 6.1 per cent. Job opportunities are scarce. The regional CBI reports that companies are barely keeping their heads above water and closures are being announced weekly."

South Wales is not far behind. Steel cutbacks have pushed the unemployment rate for Wales as a whole to 8.4 per cent. With North Wales also hit by recession—Bernard Wardle has closed a plastics factory and Ferodo has announced redundancies—the total of nearly 100,000 unemployed is expected by the regional CBI to rise to 150,000 during 1981 to represent an 11 per cent rate of unemployment.

Department of Employment returns show redundancies in Wales at 28,279 in the first five

months of this year, compared with 7,500 in the same period last year. This takes no account of 7,000 job losses at Stottion.

Ford confirmed this month that 1,000 of the promised 2,500 jobs at its new Eborac Bridge-end engine plant may not materialize. At Merthyr Tydfil, already suffering from job losses at its large Hoover plant, more than 200 workers at the Kayser Bendor Lingerie factory have been warned of redundancy because of trading problems caused by cheap foreign imports.

In the North-west unemployment figures showed a marginal improvement to 7.9 per cent last month, but, as elsewhere outside the South-east, next week's unemployment returns are anxiously awaited because of the uniform expectation of a worsening picture, with job opportunities down.

Not only home orders, but exports, too, are significantly lower, according to the latest

investment forecasts downwards. At Reckitt and Colman, centre, at Hull, employs 3,000, reduced trading has led to cuts in overtime working, the halving of recruitment and some staff reductions, largely through natural wastage.

The normally buoyant East Midlands has already seen unemployment rates creep up to 5.3 per cent, with fewer job opportunities. Textiles, footwear and engineering are the main areas affected.

Even the South-west, with its booming service industries, is reporting losses from the recession. Unemployment stands at 5.7 per cent, compared with 5.4 per cent in May last year.

There are reports, notably from the North-east, of substantially lower levels of absenteeism and sickness leave, and sharply reduced labour turnover as workers hang on to the jobs available. Some regional CBI officials regard this as a sign that workforces are facing up to the realities of recession—and they are waiting to see how far such attitudes may trim demands in the coming pay round. It is what most managements say they need, along with a reduction in interest rates, to see them through the recession.

The effects of the recession emerge not only from CBI monitoring but from evidence provided by retailers about the sales of goods on which customers can postpone decisions. These sales were probably 5 per cent lower in the North-east during the past month than elsewhere. The fall was about half of that in the other regions except for what, at any rate for the moment, is the more favoured South.

Within the overall figures there is the steep fall of 25 per cent in retail sales reported in Edinburgh. Despite the oil boom, Aberdeen shopkeepers are experiencing some downturns.

There are variations in the experience of retailers with nationwide outlets. Mr. Terry Curry, joint managing director of Currys, the chain selling electrical goods, says that the worst hit areas are the North-east and South Wales, and that the North-west sales have been more badly affected than those in the Midlands.

But Ward White, one of the largest shoe manufacturers and with retail outlets outside the South-east, is finding its Midlands sales more badly hit than those in the North-west.

Woolworths' regional returns clearly show the North, particularly the North-east, the Midlands and South Wales all suffering a bigger fall in sales.

However, beer sales, that most robust of trades during recession, have not been disproportionately hit in these regions, according to Allied Breweries. And the gloom is not shared by Mr. Keith Moreton, chairman and managing director of RBM Holdings, Birmingham, which has 150 employees in structural steelwork, plastics, road signs and stockholding. "I don't go along with the dismal jollies who are talking themselves into the grave and over-reacting to every piece of economic and market gossip," he says.

When the recession suddenly appeared it was if industry collectively lost confidence. Mr. Moreton said: "I believe that it will recover just as quickly when the Government brings Minimum Lending Rate down two points."

### The latest evidence suggests a marked downturn in business fortunes

#### Derek Harris and our regional correspondents report

survey by the regional CBI. Textile mills have been closing at the rate of one a week and short-time working is widespread.

Courtaulds and Tootal have both been cutting deep into their traditional North-west operations and concentrating production on selected modern plants elsewhere. Mr. Christopher Hogg, Courtaulds' recently appointed chief executive, says: "The trading outlook is very much worse than a year ago, so we have responded by increasing the rate of closures. It is not a case of us withering away. It is more a case of an overweight man slimming down."

It is a theme heard elsewhere—a reduction of workforces as new machines and processes are brought in to save on waste bills pushed up by high pay settlements.

Although the motor industry's troubles have affected the West Midlands most, Merseyside is one of the many other areas hit, with 3,000 production workers at present laid off for a fortnight at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant and 1,800 in the transmissions plant at Ford's Halewood complex due to be laid off for an extra week in August.

More diversified regions, like the East Midlands and Yorkshire and Humberside, which are usually more able to shrug off recession than their northern neighbours, are also feeling the pinch. On Yorkshire and Humberside the regional CBI reports that many companies are facing their most difficult trading conditions for a long time, with a quarter of the companies in one survey revising

## Business Diary: Whither the CBI? • Ground nuts

sters Spencer Stuart sy compiling a list of successors to the late Sir John Gorton as the r-General of the Confed- of British Industry. I couple of names for

rk the CBI council, and members, are unlikely for either and, what is neither is publicly keen job. On the other hand n, the CBI's first undis- success, was both a con- al choice and needed cajoling to move into Street.

alphabetical order I nominate Morton, r (b 1938), shortly to managing director of the National Oil Corpora- distasteful at the appoint- y Mrs Thatcher, without vledge, of a new chair- hip Shielburne.

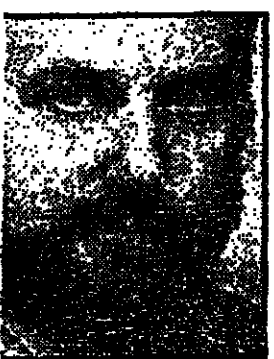
ally I nominate Prior, b 1919), chairman of E. lmer. He combines a ful track record in indus-

try with strongly held maverick views on management—prob- ably too irreverent for the CBI's backwoodsmen, more's the pity.

Morton in another and younger winner, but the count would probably tip as a DG from nationalized industry and one who has fallen out with the Blessed Margaret at that.

It should be remembered, however, that Sir John came from an interventionist govern- ment body, the Office of Fair Trading. His achievements came from swimming successfully against the stream under a Labour government.

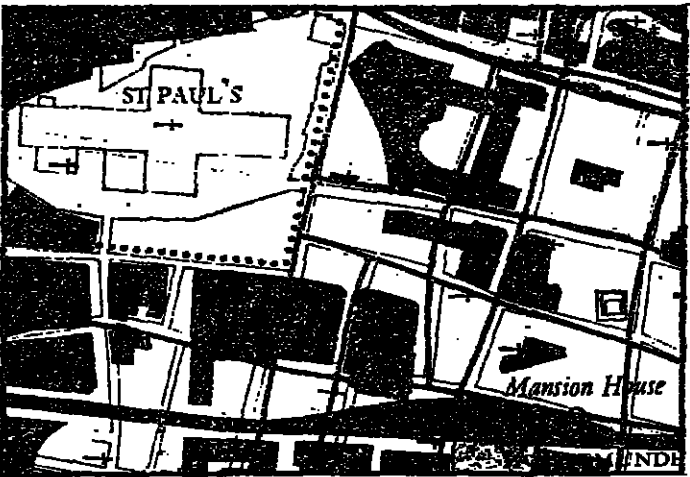
Now, under a supposedly more congenial government, but one which the businesses of many CBI members may not survive the confederation cannot afford a "yes man" at the top. Some unions discovered this truth under Labour: the place of the leader of a special interest group is either in his office or in the tents of the faithful—not toying with the caesars at Number 10.



ir Morton.



Peter Prior.



● Above is a detail from a map of the City of London: the black spots represent archaeological sites irretrievably lost through redevelopment over the last century.

The map appears in a book out today, *Archaeology of the City of London*, published by the City of London Archaeological Trust. It costs £2.50 and is available from the bookshop of the Museum of London.

Neil Macfarlane, a junior minister at the Department of Education and Science, launched the book in the crypt of Guildhall yesterday. He said that since the archaeological trust got under way eight years ago, archaeologists had been permitted to remove one million objects from 40 sites and not one site had been lost to inquiry through "premature development."

In fact, though developers nowadays allow the archaeolo-

● One picture is not worth a thousand words: this was the gist of remarks by Stock Exchange deputy chairman George Nissen at yesterday's presentation of the *Accounting magazine* Stock Exchange awards for 1979's clearest company accounts.

The winner out of 12,000 entrants was the cigarette group BAT Industries, which won not because its were the most sumptuously illustrated accounts but because of a "clear and efficient" current cost accounting (CCA) statement.

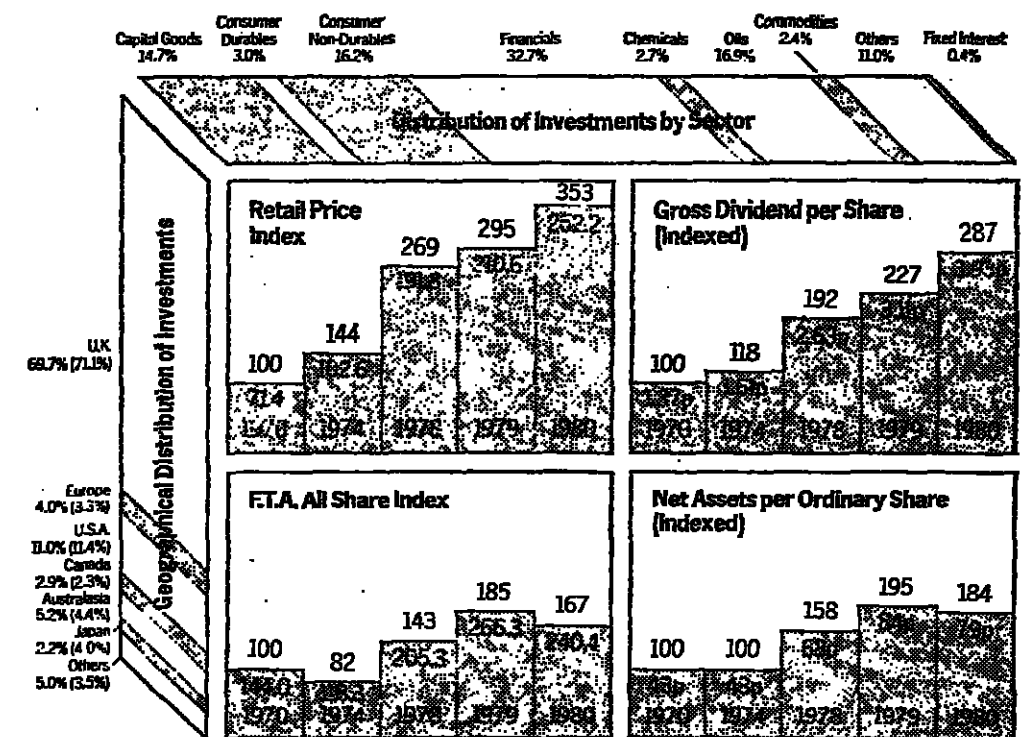
Accepting the company's prize—a carriage clock (wonder what the runners-up, Somerby Parke Berners, thought of it?) BAT chairman Peter Macadam said he would like to see even more simplicity—perhaps even simpler accounts for shareholders and employees and a fuller statutory set available on request.

Nissen thinks the BATs idea might work if the contents of the simplified accounts were laid down by law. BATs, on the other hand, probably wants less legislation, not more of it.

Municipal Engineering is not usually the first magazine I turn to, but the current issue gripped me with a survey that shows a "bladder-stretching" drop of a quarter in the number of London public conveniences in the last decade. Kensington and Chelsea seem to have but 10, and London Transport has closed 35 station toilets. It's even worse in Greater London. A chain reaction, indeed.

Ross Davies

# The Industrial and General Trust Limited



## Total Assets at 31st March 1980: £188 million.

Whilst our income has been buoyant during the past year, aided notably by special dividends from Shell and other companies, a note of warning must be sounded about the immediate future. The collision between high inflation and monetary restraint, reinforced by a pound strengthened by

oil, is squeezing profits of manufacturers. Furthermore, current cost accounting will paint a disturbing picture of many companies. Dividend growth may well slow down, but we expect your company's income will continue to make satisfactory progress.



A member of the Touche, Remnant Management Group. Total funds under Group management exceed £800 million.

The Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Industrial & General Trust Ltd., Winchester House, 77 London Wall, London EC2N 1BE.



## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Stock markets

## Gilts lead way in further buying spree

Another strong performance by government securities coaxed equities back into the mainstream of action yesterday amid further heavy buying. Indeed, gilts were in no mood to worry about more talk of a recession, which was reported in the morning newspapers, as business resumed. Prices raced ahead from the start and dealers who had been expecting some reaction to recent strong gains admitted to being pleasantly surprised.

Business after hours on Tuesday encountered a fair amount of profit taking. But there was no sign of it yesterday as the buying snowballed with foreign buyers and institutions again to the fore.

In most cases the real fear among buyers was that by waiting too long the real bargains might be gone.

In long-term government securities, the market was active in the partly paid issues. As in the case of the medium "ten" Exchequer 13½ per cent 1994, which opened at 54½ and closed 5½ up at 54½. Some profit taking was encountered in late afternoon but it was easily absorbed in some sizeable two-way business.

The story was similar at the shorter end of the market. Prices zoomed ahead, pushing for profit taking after lunch. But by the close they had still managed to close at the top, with rises extending to 5w.

The big mover in equities was still apparent in early trade yesterday, while domestic buyers still waited for some reaction after recent advances. However, the strong gilt market boiled over and buyers were soon on the scene testing the waters.

From then on equities became more confident as brokers looked around for the bargains on offer. But the general stock shortage resulted in another uncomfortable session for jobbers.

Talk after lunch of a cut in the ARL today was generally discounted by most market men and was attributed to one or two dealers "talking up their books".

Suspicion that yet another dawn raid is about to be launched within this account sent the share price of Combined English Stores up 1p to 3p, 8p above the year's low.

Trading remained fairly buoyant after hours, with jobbers fairly pleased with the market's performance.

The FT Index which had fluctuated throughout the day, finally closed 4.1 up at 473.1 after falling 3.2 at 10 am.

Leading industrials enjoyed a busy session, although this was not clearly reflected in price movements. BAT hard-

ened 10p to 273p and ICI closed firm at 386p. Rises of 2p were not uncommon, as in the case of Beechams at 140p, Glaxo at 228p and Pilkington Bros at 238p following its recent large placing. Fisons rose 4p to 269p in a thin market, but Hawley Slidely dropped a couple of pence to 200p after the group's annual meeting.

Far Eastern buying again lifted shares of Dunlop which rose 3p to 83p as over 1 million shares went east. But despite the renewed interest most observers claim there is still no need for concern.

Oils had another quiet session as investors' attention switched to items elsewhere in the market. Profit taking still persisted, but jobbers were not unduly worried as it was spread right across the board. BP at 374p and Shell at 404p both lost 2p while among second liners Lasso improved 8p to a new high of 699p after touching 700p at one point.

Profit taking also clipped 2p from Tricentaur at 376p and Premier at 92½p shed in Berkeley Exploration developed

nerves as the market waited for news of its latest drilling report sliding 11p to 210p, with Pict Petroleum 20p off at 410p.

Among companies reporting, favourable statements lifted Anglia Television by 4p to 81p, Ernest Jones 4p to 108p, Westland Aircraft 16p to 96p and Brownlee 8p to 94p. But the cut in dividend clipped 3½p from Downs Surgical at 29½p with Robt Kitchen Taylor plunging 15p to 125p following the setback in profits. Recent figures and rights news put another 8p on Haslewood Foods at 96p while THF advanced 4p to 192p ahead of next week's interim statement.

Speculative interest was good for rises in Selection Trust 18p to 700p, Emes Lighting 13p to 143p and Quest Autos 15p to 157p. But a "sell" recommendation lopped 3p from Dundonian at 69p. Shares of Ferrier Pollock were suspended at 25p pending clarification of the financial position.

In stores, Tesco held on at 59½p following its profits set-back, with Asda finishing with a 2p rise at 192p in sympathy.

GUS 'A' attracted further buying rising 16p to 438p along with BHS up 12p to 308p. Reports of boardroom changes were greeted with a 1p rise at 74p in UDS and 4p to 66p at 6attans.

The Property Advisory Group's report of a deep, widespread and prolonged recession in the property and development industry sent prices reeling early on but they soon recovered on talk of a cut in ARL. Rises of 2p were the norm as in the case of MEPC at 220p, Land Secs at 330p and Haselmere at 342p.

Ultramar's ordinary shares generated interest yesterday, against the rest of the sector, and rose 2p to 380p. This was prompted by preferred shareholders giving notice of their right to switch into ordinary shares on June 30. So far one third of preferred shareholders, whose shares stood at 400p yesterday, have taken the opportunity with less than two weeks to go.

But recent figures from Bradford Property lopped 6p from the price of 180p.

Equity turnover on June 17 was £172.312m (19.937 bar-

Traded options: Interest remained high although the general level slipped from the previous day's figure of 1.693 to 1.566. Grand Met again featured prominently, accounting for 478 contracts, of which the July 160p series remains a form favourite. Imps drew further inquiry with 180 contracts eventually completed the August 80 series received 125 contracts.

## Anglia Television pretax profits up 47pc at interim

By Adrienne Gleeson

Largely thanks to a high volume of advertising in the wake of the ITV dispute and an increase in advertising rates worth about 20 per cent overall, profits of Anglia Television, before tax and the Exchequer levy, rose from £3.4m to £5.96m in the six months to the end of April, on turnover some 50 per cent higher at £16.57m.

The Exchequer Levy increased from £1.33m to £3.14m, leaving profits at the pretax level some 47 per cent higher at £2.97m.

One of the factors making for the improvement was the increase in programme sales, which helped to push the contribution from associates from a loss of £46,000 to profits of £149,000. The associates (which produced £38,000 over the whole of last year) will almost certainly make more in the second half, reflecting the seasonal pattern of trading at

the 28.1 per cent-owned Soda-stream, but the group as a whole usually makes less in the second than in the first six months, and the directors say that the pattern is likely to be more than usually marked this year.

As yet, however, they have noticed no exceptional decline in the volume of advertising, and they attribute the relative sluggishness of trading now to the exceptional buoyancy of the first half.

Despite the (remote) possibility that the East Anglian television franchise will be allocated elsewhere by the IBA, Anglia is continuing to spend some £6m on the development of new studios. But the balance sheet is still strong.

The group is paying an interim dividend of 2.86p a share gross, some 27 per cent higher than the payment declared at the corresponding point last year. The shares closed 4p higher at 81p.

## Ernest Jones up 14 pc midway

In spite of the down consumer spending, profits of Ernest Jones (Jewellery) to March 2 by 14 per cent to £1.21m turnover—exclusive of—rose by 19 per cent to £1.21m.

The interim dividend, however, was raised by 12 per cent to 2p gross. A repeat of this at the final stage would, a prospective yield of 5 cent at 108p.

Ernest Jones came a market just under two ago, and so far has been healthy investment. Profit rose by 29 per cent to £1.62m. If this year's half yields a similar rise to the first six months, profits to end-September rise to £1.84m.

Mr Ernest Weinstein, chairman, is not making predictions, "in the economic conditions". He said: "People are still prepared to buy jewelry that is value and well designed, we regard ourselves as in our field."

## Newman counts cost

The board of Newman Industries said in the annual report that it should not be involved in any further financial liability, except for irrecoverable costs, in the case between the Prudential and two directors Mr Alan Barlett and Mr John Laughton, former chairman and vice chairman respectively.

Although the internal costs of the Prudential's action had not been shown separately in the accounts, it could not be overlooked that considerable management and administrative time was involved, particularly during the latter half of 1979, said the directors' statement.

External costs relating to the action, in which it was ruled that the Prudential and other shareholders had suffered damage as a result of deal with Thomas Poole Gladstone China, amounted to £146,000.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Anglia TV (T)	16.59(11.02)	2.97(2.02)	10.55(7.11)	2p(1.6p)	14.8	—(1.14)
Baker's Stores (T)	2.45(1.99)	0.39(0.33)	9.93(10.9)	0.65(0.35)	8.6	—(1.15)
Blaich Tin (F)	—(—)	0.14(0.04)	1.2(0.4)	0.5(0.22)	22.8	0.3(0.32)
Brownlee (F)	24.7(21.3)	1.5(1.0)	7.1(5.7)	7.1(5.7)	6.10	0.8(0.32)
Downs Surgical (F)	14.4(18.13)	0.85(1.78)	5.7(10.2)	0.8(—)	—	—(0.5)
Maurice James (F)	9.4(11.0)	0.61(0.4)	3.5(1.5)	0.75(0.5)	—	—(3.75)
E. Jones (T)	4.9(4.2)	1.2(1.07)	5.8(5.1)	1.4(1.25)	20.8	—(3.75)
Rite Kitchen Taylor (T)	6.6(9.1)	0.35(1.0)	5.7(17.2)	3.0(0.75)	31	—(3)
Sound Diffusion (F)	—(—)	0.35(1.79)	—(—)	1.05(0.8)	2.10	1.05(0.8)
Tesco Stores (F)	1,531(1,202)	35.5(27.7)	10.6(11.5)	1.45(1.19)	30.7	2.45(1.58)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. \* = for 15 months.



Sunderland and South Shields Water Company

## AN ACTIVE AND PROGRESSIVE YEAR

The following matters were referred to in the Report and Accounts presented at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 18th June, 1980, and in the statement by the Chairman, Mr. Walter B. Allan:

There was little change in the average daily consumption of water in the Company's area of supply during the year ended 31st March, 1980, compared with the preceding year in which there was an abnormally large increase in consumption. The long-term trend of consumption is still rising. The Derwent Reservoir refilled to top water level in February 1980 and water is available from the River Wear Scheme, so that the present water supply position is satisfactory.

Most of the final adjustments required to the complex treatment plant of the River Wear Scheme were made during the year and the scheme is working satisfactorily. The provision of additional service reservoir capacity is necessary and it is hoped to start construction of a second reservoir at Stoneygate during 1980.

The financial results for the year were satisfactory. Continuing inflation and an anticipated major increase in water abstraction charges payable to the Northumbrian Water Authority led to an increase in water rates of 27% and in metered charges of 31% from 1st April last. The main reason for the increase in abstraction charges is the impact of the Kielder Scheme.

Additional capital was required during the year to finance capital works and to redeem stock which fell due for repayment. An issue of £2,000,000 8% Redeemable Preference Stock, 1986 was made in July 1979 at an average price of £100.24 per cent. It is anticipated that further capital will need to be raised during 1980 to finance the redemption of £3,000,000 Redeemable Preference Stock which is due for repayment in July and to finance capital works.

The Company is engaged upon a revision of its tariffs to comply with the charging provisions of the Water Act, 1973. In the year commencing 1st April 1980, a two-part tariff for metered consumers has been adopted. The larger commercial consumers who were charged on a rateable value basis have been given the option of changing to a metered supply if they so wish and it is intended that this option will be made available to all commercial consumers in phased stages over the next few years.

Sunderland and South Shields Water Company  
29 John Street, Sunderland SR1 1JT.

## In brief

Edinburgh Investment Trust has acquired a further 30,000 shares in Mercantile House Holdings thereby increasing their holding to 355,000 shares—6.04 per cent.

Rowntree Macintosh: Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust has disposed of 25,000 ordinary shares, thereby reducing its interest to 7.03 per cent.

Keyser Ullmann Holdings: Charterhouse Capital disposed of 10,000 ordinary shares of Keyser on June 17 at 80½p, and now holds no shares. Grierson, Grant & associates of Charterhouse Group purchased following Keyser Ullmann Holdings on June 17: 25,000 at 81½p and 25,000 at 80½p xd.

East Midland Allied Press: has purchased four retail newsagents shops in Peterborough and Ely from family of Mr D. T. B. Stops for £162,500.

Dearden Farrow (UK) has sponsored a new international network of firms of accountants—representing 175 partners and more than 1,400 staff—has been formed from 10 countries.

Blaich Tin: Pre-tax profit for 1979, £138,000 (£44,000). Extraordinary dividend nil (£219,000). Transfer from capital reserve nil (£71,000). EPS 1.3p (0.4p). Dividend 0.5p (0.32p). Francis Shaw: Chairman told its annual meeting that in order to survive it was necessary to minimise use of the group's financial resources and to keep borrowings under control. By selling property and limiting activities of group it was hoped that in a new lean and hungry form it would be possible to move forward again.

Glynwed: Chairman told annual meeting that group's results for the first quarter of 1980 were extremely encouraging despite steel strike. However, in the second quarter there has been a downturn in many activities due, in part, to Government's efforts to reduce level of inflation.

Ferrier, Pollock and Co: Shares have been suspended on Dublin stock exchange pending clarification of financial position. Problems had arisen with Ferrier Pollock Distribution, the drapery wholesale subsidiary, which accounts for over half its sales. Discussions are taking place to establish a "refinancing package" for the subsidiary.

Robert Kitchen Taylor: First-half profits to March 31 are just £352,000 against last year's abnormal £1.01m, and well down from previous year's interim £581,000 performance. Sales have fallen from £9.1m to £6.58m, which compares poorly with the £9.49m sold in the first half of 1979.

## Trusts put up £2m to back potential entrepreneurs

By Adrienne Gleeson

A club of investment trust companies, led by fund management groups Murray Johnstone and Scottish American, is to put up £2m to back entrepreneurs anxious to start manufacturing companies in the United Kingdom. The scheme is to be managed for the participating companies by Venture Founders, the nited Kingdom arm of an American organization which specializes in selecting potentially successful entrepreneurs and finding the backing for them.

Venture Founders already exist in a similar capacity for Rainford Venture Capital, which was set up earlier this year,

under the aegis of Pilkington, to back entrepreneurs in the St. Helen's area.

The new fund, which is to be known as Venture Founders Capital, is to provide equity (not loan capital) of between £50,000 and £150,000 to businesses who will be selected by Venture Founders, during a course of interviews and weekend training sessions, on the basis of their vision, commitment and capacity to manage. Mr Brian Haslett, managing director of Venture Founders, says that if potential entrepreneurs cannot cope with the training sessions they are better off learning it now than later.

## Krupp Stahl returns to profit

Krupp Stahl, formerly Fried Krupp Huettenwerke, the steel-making unit of the Krupp group of companies, saw a return to profits in 1979 and further improvement from its specialty steels division in the first five months of 1980. Herr Wilhelm Scheider, the managing board chairman, told the annual meeting.

Specialty steels accounted for 48 per cent of Krupp Stahl's 1979 turnover of DM5,300m (£1,300m). Krupp reported earlier.

However, Herr Scheider said that ordinary steel products

## International

were still causing losses in the first five months, while mixed—but generally improving—results were reported from the Krupp unit's steel processing operations.

In 1979, Krupp Stahl reported net profits of DM10.1m after a loss of DM165.7m in 1978. Monthly sales in the first

five months averaged DM527m, up 20 per cent from a year earlier, Herr Scheider said. Crude steel production averaged 466,000 tons a month in the period, a rise of 3.2 per cent from the first five months of 1979.

Roller steel turnover was up by 10 per cent in the first five months, the company said, with most of the rise coming from increased exports to EEC nations. Exports outside the EEC dropped, however, Krupp said.

## British Oxygen

British Oxygen Finance is floating a \$50m 10-year Eurobond issue at 99.5 bearing 10.75 per cent annually to yield 10.83 per cent at maturity through a syndicate led by Lazard Brothers and Co and Swiss Bank Corp (Overseas).

## Aluisse bond

Swiss Aluminium (Aluisse) said yesterday it will float an \$80m Eurodollar convertible bond over its daughter company, Aluisse Capital of the British Virgin Islands.

The issue, in \$1,000 denominations, will be convertible into Aluisse participation certificates.

## Sound Diffusion increases dividend

Sound Diffusion—sawfall from £790,000 to £1.1m in 1979. However, the dividend has been raised 1.14p gross to 1.5p—up of 31 per cent.

Yesterday the shares rose to 55p where the yield price compares with a low of 49p.

Sound Diffusion's hiring and alarm systems are made and maintained by Sound Diffusion (Maping) and Sound Diffusion (Maping)—both private companies controlled by the Sound chairman, Mr Paul. In 1979 no surcharge products and services provided by these companies was

Interest and depreciation £905,000 compared with £1.1m in 1978. The tax charge was £75,000 compared £45,000.

The profit figures for trading items of £23,000 pared with £247,000—two sales of re-purchased real estate. In 1978 the benefited from an extra net profit of £437,000 in the sale of 5 per Treasury stock, but there a similar contribution in 1979.

Because Sound Diffusion's part of its expansion by selling a proportion of installations to its companies, and guarantees an interest-related return, first tend suffer when in rates are high.

## Matheson buys Glanville

The Charterhouse Group yesterday announced the sale of Glanville, Enniscorthy, its wholly owned insurance broking subsidiary, to Matheson and Co, a subsidiary of Jardine Matheson, the Hongkong-based trading and finance company. Matheson is paying £11.7m.

Mr Geoffrey Rowett, executive of the Charter Group, said yesterday the sale formed part of the house's "normal policy" to build up companies and get to a size where they further progress in a different environment.

The money raised by the sale, Mr Rowett, would be for investment in companies.

## Brixton Estate

International investors in commercial property

## Annual Report 1979

- 31% increase in net profits.
- 50% increase in proposed net dividend.
- £18 million surplus from revaluation of investment properties.
- 1 for 5 bonus issue proposed.
- Funds available to finance all current commitments.

	1979	1978
Rental Income	£8,885,000	£7,150,000
Gross Profit	£3,319,000	£2,772,000
Value of Investment Properties	£150,388,000	£123,583,000
Earnings per Share	5.11p	3.89p
Net Assets per Share	190p	150p

Copies of the Report and Accounts for 1979 may be obtained from The Secretary, 22-24 Ely Place, London, EC1N 6TG.



Brixton Estate

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FINANCIAL NEWS

# Cowie wins its bitter fight for control of Ewer

By Rosemary Unsworth

Ewer share without the Tractors acquisition, but yesterday the application for the listing of Ewer's new shares was granted by the Stock Exchange.

Further bitterness ensued when brokers, Laurence Prust, started buying Ewer shares in the market for Ewer associates above the 52p offer price. This effectively prevented T. Cowie acquiring any more shares under Takeover Panel rules. Undaunted, the Cowie associates continued to buy Cowie shares through the market when the price fell back to around 35p.

It is estimated, however, that Ewer associates bought approximately 500,000 shares at around 50p, which with the drop in the Ewer price yesterday to 51p after the announcement, means there has been a 5p share loss on those purchases.

During the battle Mr Cowie said that he would be prepared to sell Eastern Tractors, if he was forced to acquire it, if it proved to be a poor purchase, given the problems of the farm machinery business.

Yesterday Cowie associates continued to buy its own shares as the price climbed back to 38p.

Shareholders of Nurdin and Peacock were told at the annual meeting that for the past 22 weeks of the year sales were more than 20 per cent up on the same period in 1979.

The new 80,000 sq ft cash-

# Downs Surgical cuts final

Continuing pressure on NHS expenditure and the strength of sterling have combined to reduce sales and profit margins at Downs Surgical over the year to March 31. The increase in sales which had been looked for in the second half did not materialize, and the opening months of the current year still show no signs of an upturn in trade. In view of these factors, and the need to conserve resources, the board has reduced the final dividend from 2.32p gross to 1.14p gross, for a total of 2.28p for the year, against 4.6p for the previous fifteen months.

Sales for the year were £14.35m against £18.13m and pretax profits, £849,000 compared with £1,785m. Earnings a share were 5p against 3.22p.

# Advance clinches bid for Richmond

The recommended offer on behalf of Advance Laundries to acquire the Richmond Park Laundries has been accepted by the holders of 76,310 shares in Richmond, and by British Electric Traction, in respect of its holding of 1.58m ordinary shares. Taken together these acceptances represent 97.8 per cent.

The offer has become unconditional, save for the passing of the resolution set out in the notice of meeting of Advance stockholders convened for June 25 and remains open for acceptance until further notice.

# Grattan strengthens its board

Two new directors are to join Grattan Warehouses, the troubled Bradford-based mail order group. One of them, Mr David Jones, presently managing director of the British Mail Order Corporation, and an associated director of Great Universal Stores, is to join as deputy chairman and chief executive; and the second, Mr John Whitmarsh, also from British Mail Order Corporation, is to join as management services and computer director. The present managing director of Grattan, Mr Michael Place, will continue as deputy chief executive.

Mr Michael Pickford, chairman of the group, which recently reported a slump in profits from £11.28m to £4.45m pretax, and ran into trouble with its auditors for a change in accounting policy, said yesterday that Grattan was "bringing in two people who have had relevant and successful experience in completing major computer and warehouse programmes".

# Steady haul puts Duple 23 pc ahead

By Rosemary Unsworth

Duple International, the Blackpool-based coachbuilding, plastics and engineering group, maintained its steady growth pattern at the halfway stage, pushing up profits by 23 per cent.

Profit went from £1.45m to £1.8m, and turnover rose by 16 per cent to £12m in the six months to February 29, 1980.

Operating profits went up by 16 per cent from £1.43m to £1.66m, and the interest the group received rose from £20,000 last year to £137,000 this time.

Mr Gordon Hay, chairman, said that the coachbuilding division, which produces about 80 per cent of profits, continued to be the mainstay of success. A new service centre has opened in Scotland and there is a £1.7m improvement programme at the Blackpool works.

But he was cautious about second-half prospects, which will be affected by the rising

cost of materials and which may keep profits the same as last year's £3.7m.

The engineering division is expected to break even by the year end, and contribute to profits next year, while the plastics division is performing satisfactorily.

Duple has also proposed a one-for-four scrip issue, releasing £500,000 from capitalized reserves, which will be followed by the consolidation of the 5p shares into 25p units.

The interim dividend of 4p gross on the 25p shares, is the equivalent of 1p on the 5p shares, compared with 0.5p last year.

Earnings a share at 8.4p are comparable with 2.4p before the scrip issue and consolidation. The equivalent figure on 5p shares would be 2.4p against 1.7p.

Duple is still looking for acquisitions which will be paid for in cash, if a suitable company is found.

# Ill in Agricultural mortgage lending

By the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation fell to 52p, Mr John Glynn, of AMC, reports in a statement that the trend of applications received for a mortgage demand fell in. For the year, £44m was completed.

Glynn identifies three of the downward trends. The increase in rates generally, and the rise in AMC's own rates kept borrowers in combined with costs agricultural business estimated by farmers difficult, especially when

it has to be backed by borrowings.

At the same time the AMC had to face stiffer competition from banks to make longer-term loans. The third reason, says Mr Glynn, is that the fall in land prices has led to a fall in activity.

In order to help young well-qualified farmers to start a farm on their own account, the AMC and the Pension Fund Property Unit Trust have launched a pilot experiment. A young farmer began farming in partnership with the unit trust group in September. The object of the experiment is to gain first hand knowledge of financial problems in starting in farming.

# Brownlee climbs 38 pc to £1.5m

Brownlee and Company, the Glasgow-based timber merchants, yesterday reported that pretax profits for the year to March 29 have risen 38 per cent to £1.5m and the board is proposing a one-for-two scrip issue. However, Mr J. F. McLelland, the chairman, warns that business conditions remain difficult, and with costs rising and an uncertain market, he says it is difficult to predict the outcome for the current year.

Mr McLelland says that the home improvement market has continued to expand and Brownlee has extended its product range to improve its service to the do-it-yourself market.

Brownlee counts among its shareholders two rival groups. International Timber has 12 per cent of the equity, while McLeod Russell owns 12.4 per cent. Possibly as a preventive move against an ever-possible bid, the Brownlee board has revealed its properties by £1.1m which will add 15p a share, making the net asset value for each share 143p.

# Business appointments

# New chairman named for Dalgety Australia

Mr R. B. Vaughan has become chairman and managing director of Dalgety Australia. Sir William Vines has retired as chairman of Dalgety Australia and as a director of Dalgety New Zealand. He remains a director of Dalgety Australia.

Mr Michael Turner becomes vice chairman and director of Fuller, Smith & Turner, the independent Chiswick brewers.

Mr G. Wendel has been made managing director of Motomat GmbH, the Associated Engineering Group's wholly owned automotive parts distributing company in Austria.

Mr Michael D. Oakley has been appointed managing director of Cox & Kings Financial Services.

Mr Bengt Koch is now managing director of Atlantic Container Line, the North Atlantic container shipping line.

Mr Michael J. Webster has been named as a director of Eleco Holdings.

Mr Ronald G. Hughes and Mr W. Ralph Child have joined the board of Matthews Clark & Sons.

Mr David Yeo will become financial director of Cunell Carbons, Hollingsworth Marshall, and N. Sale.

# Bank Base Rates

Bank of England	17%
Bank of Ireland	17%
Bank of Scotland	17%
Bank of Wales	17%
Bank of Cyprus	17%
Bank of Greece	17%
Bank of Italy	17%
Bank of Japan	17%
Bank of Netherlands	17%
Bank of Norway	17%
Bank of Sweden	17%
Bank of Switzerland	17%
Bank of Belgium	17%
Bank of France	17%
Bank of Germany	17%
Bank of Spain	17%
Bank of Portugal	17%
Bank of Greece	17%
Bank of Italy	17%
Bank of Japan	17%
Bank of Netherlands	17%
Bank of Norway	17%
Bank of Sweden	17%
Bank of Switzerland	17%
Bank of Belgium	17%
Bank of France	17%
Bank of Germany	17%
Bank of Spain	17%
Bank of Portugal	17%

# M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

Local Lane London EC3H 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

# The Over-the-Counter Market

Company	Price	Change	Gross Dividend	Yield	P/E
59 Airsprung Group	65	-	6.7	10.3	+3.8
185 Airsprung & Rhodes	30	-	3.8	12.7	+2.0
78 Barton Hill	278	-	13.8	5.0	+8.2
63 County Cars Pref	78	-	15.3	19.6	-
63 Deborah Ord	92	-	5.0	5.4	10.1
38 Frank Horsell	117	-	7.9	6.7	7.3
90 Frederick Parker	102	-	12.8	12.2	+4.1
45 George Blair	102	-	16.5	16.2	-
103 Jackson Group	77	+1	6.0	7.8	+2.9
103 James Burroughs	107sd	+3	7.9	7.4	8.8
242 Robert Jenkins	300	-	31.3	10.4	+9.6
175 Torday Limited	220	-	15.1	6.9	+3.7
111 Twinklack Ord	151	-	-	-	-
70 Twinklack 12% ULS	76	-	12.0	15.8	-
23 Unilock Holdings	49	-1	2.6	5.3	10.4
45 Unilock Holdings New	46	-	4.4	4.6	6.2
136 W. S. Yeates	214	-	12.1	5.7	+3.5

counts prepared under provision of SSAP15.

# AVERAGE EARNINGS

Index numbers for average earnings of employees in all industries and services covered by the monthly earnings inquiry released by the Department of Employment.

	(11 Old)	(12 New)	Change in
	series of 1970 = 100	series of 1970 = 100	earnings at annualized 1979
1979	267.5	144.3	28.9
April	373.8	146.9	20.4
May	385.9	150.9	18.4
June	387.5	155.6	23.6
July	385.2	153.3	14.0
Aug	384.3	153.5	-1.1
Sept	401.6	158.1	15.4
Oct	408.3	162.1	26.2
Nov	417.0	165.1	37.9
1980			
Jan	415.9	163.0	15.0
Feb	424.2	167.3	16.5
March	435.5	172.8	18.0
April	438.5	174.8	24.7

# "Jardines - Significant growth"

Extracts from the 1979 Statement to Stockholders by Mr D.K. Newbighing, Chairman and Senior Managing Director, Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd. The Annual General Meeting was held on 18th June, 1980.

Jardines' consolidated net earnings for the year ended 31st December, 1979, after tax and minority interests, but before extraordinary items, were HK\$403.2 million, 20% more than the 1978 earnings of HK\$335.9 million. Earnings per stock unit of HK\$1.86 were 17.0% above the HK\$1.59 achieved in the previous year.

Extraordinary items amounted to a further net surplus of HK\$37.2 million, compared with HK\$9.5 million in 1978. A final dividend equivalent to HK\$0.60 makes a total of HK\$0.82 for the year, representing an increase of 15.5% over the 1978 total of HK\$0.71 per stock unit. In addition, a free scrip issue of 3 stock units for every 20 held is recommended.

# Disposal of certain assets and investments

During 1979, Jardines took several significant steps towards improving the underlying basis of its recurrent earnings by disposing of a number of loss-making or low-yielding assets and investments. The most important of these disposals was the sale of Toft Bros. Industries Ltd, an Australian subsidiary manufacturing sugar harvesting equipment. Reunion Properties Company Ltd, a subsidiary in the United Kingdom, was also sold for cash at net asset value.

These disposals, coupled with continued emphasis on cash generation and conservation in our operations, resulted in strong short-term cash resources at the year-end.

	1979	1978
	HK\$ m	HK\$ m
Turnover	5,723.0	5,175.0
Profit before tax	608.1	509.1
Tax	(123.1)	(124.5)
Profit after tax	485.0	384.6
Minorities	(81.3)	(48.7)
Profit after tax and minorities	403.2	335.9
Net exchange translation differences	54.6	86.4
Extraordinary items	37.2	9.5
Total profit available for appropriation	495.0	431.8
	HK\$	HK\$
Earnings per stock unit*	1.86	1.59
Dividends per stock unit	0.82	0.71

\* Before net exchange translation differences and extraordinary items.

# Results from quoted subsidiaries generally excellent

In October 1979, Jardine Securities Ltd became a subsidiary of the Company. Its results for the year ended 30th June, 1979 showed a satisfactory increase in income.

The results from the Group's other publicly quoted subsidiaries were generally excellent. Jardine Davies Inc. in the Philippines continued the recovery begun in 1978, and reported a net profit after tax and minority interests of HK\$9.4 million. Fleetways (Holdings) Ltd in Australia reported a 16% increase in net earnings to HK\$7.6 million. Rennie Consolidated Holdings Ltd in Southern Africa reported a 41% increase in 1979 to a record HK\$60.9 million. Zung Fu Company Ltd in Hong Kong also had a record year, reporting net profits of HK\$33.6 million.

During 1979, we made final payments totalling US\$20 million in respect of our investment in Transporting and Trading Company Inc. (TTI), bringing the cost of our 40% holding to US\$100 million. Now that the amount finally payable has been determined we have considered it prudent to charge the total payments made to the vendors, amounting to US\$55.8 million which is not represented by tangible assets, as an extraordinary expense in the year under review. The four principal operating associates of TTI produced satisfactory results in 1979 and future prospects for the TTI group remain encouraging.

# In Hong Kong all sectors of business do well

Trading and Light Industry was once again a mainstay of Jardines' operations in 1979. In Hong Kong, the continued growth of the economy enabled all sectors of our business to do well. Results from our trading activities in Southern Africa and North East and South East Asia were also satisfactory, while in Hawaii the acquisition of the Mercedes-Benz franchise added a further activity to Theo. H. Davies & Co., Ltd.

Our Transportation interests continued to prosper in 1979. We have expanded our shipping fleet, which currently stands at 29 ships totalling approximately 1.6 million dwt, including seven newbuildings currently on order. All are fixed on profitable medium to long-term bareboat or time charters, with the exception of two newbuildings.

Our Airways Division in Hong Kong had an excellent year, as did our airfreight operations in the United Kingdom and Southern Africa.

Our Group insurance operations made a higher contribution to earnings in 1979, with Lombard Insurance Company Ltd reporting increased profits. Our insurance broking interests also had a satisfactory year and these operations are now coordinated on a worldwide basis from Hong Kong and London. Although Jardine Fleming & Company Ltd, our merchant banking associate, failed to match the record profits of 1978, all areas of its business made satisfactory progress in operational terms.

Our property interests were extensively reorganized in 1979, with the Group substantially increasing its shareholding in The Hongkong Land Company Ltd.

Our investment in the sugar industry produced satisfactory returns in 1979 from growing and milling in Hawaii, and from milling in the Philippines. Prospects for our sugar operations look better in the forthcoming year than for some time, although much will depend on price trends over the remainder of this year.

# Diverse China developments announced in early 1980

Our office in Beijing (Peking) has continued to be the focal point for our business in and with China, although a second office will shortly be established in Guangzhou (Canton). This deals with a wide range of our more traditional export and import activities, which have been extended to embrace joint-venture industrial investments and co-employment trading. The diversity of these interests can be demonstrated by two developments announced in March 1980. The first was the establishment of China Schindler Elevator Co. Ltd, to manufacture and distribute lifts and escalators both within China itself and for export, in which the partners are China Construction Machinery Corporation, Schindler Holdings AG and Jardine Schindler (Far East) Holdings SA. The second was the announcement of our agreement to underwrite the British mountaineering expedition to Mount Kongur in Xinjiang (Sinkiang) Province.

# Achievement of two major objectives in 1979

1979 saw the achievement of two objectives towards which we have worked over the past few years: the disposal of several unprofitable or low-yielding investments, and a substantial improvement in the quality and proportion of our recurrent earnings. During this period we also placed great emphasis on the improvement of the ratio of our debt to stockholders' funds. However, we may be prepared to relax this policy to take advantage of opportunities which arise for new investment.

# Further significant earnings growth expected in 1980

On the international front, 1980 has started with political problems in the Middle East, and economic problems and recessionary fears in many countries in the world, not least the USA. Notwithstanding these political and economic uncertainties, Jardines face the future with confidence. Our record profits in 1979 are over ten times those we reported for 1969, and there have also been substantial increases in earnings, dividends, and net assets per stock unit during the same period.

In the more immediate future, we expect 1980 to be another good year for Jardines and anticipate further significant growth in net earnings at a rate similar to that achieved in 1979.

D.K. Newbighing  
Chairman  
Hong Kong, 15th April, 1980.

The Annual Report is available from the Company Secretary.

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JARDINES

Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd, Connaught Centre, Hong Kong



## Discount market

Credit yesterday proved ample on the day, although conditions could not tighten towards the finish.

The Bank of England did not increase its policy rate, but, in order to meet the government's huge short-term borrowing requirements, it raised the rate of discount to 10 per cent. This was a welcome move.

Over the week, the Treasury found 16.1 per cent of most of the session. Houses were taking reserve assets: money down as low as 14 per cent in the early stages. But, as the day wore on, the Treasury's target was not met. By the end of the day, there were found mostly in a band of 16-16.5 per cent.

The Treasury had to resort to a moderate excess of government disbursements over revenue transfers to the Exchequer, but balanced the books. The Treasury's target overnight, there was a small net take-up of Treasury Bills to finance, and the market repaid to the Treasury the small amount of money borrowed on Monday.

## Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 17%  
 (Last changed 15.11.79)  
 Clearing Banks Base Rate 17%  
 Discount Mkt Loans 6%  
 Overnight: High 17 Low 14  
 Week Fixed: 16-16 1/2

Treasury Bill Rates		Savings	
4 month	1 1/2%	3 month	1 1/2%
3 month	1 1/4%		

Prime Bank Bill Rates (Trade)		1948	
2 month	100-105 1/2	3 month	100-105 1/2
4 month	100-105 1/2	6 month	100-105 1/2
6 month	100-105 1/2	8 month	100-105 1/2

Local Authority Rates		1948	
2 month	100-105 1/2	3 month	100-105 1/2
4 month	100-105 1/2	6 month	100-105 1/2
8 month	100-105 1/2	1 year	100-105 1/2
1 year	100-105 1/2		

Secondary M.D. Rates		1948	
1 month	100-105 1/2	3 month	100-105 1/2
4 month	100-105 1/2	6 month	100-105 1/2
8 month	100-105 1/2	1 year	100-105 1/2

Local Authority Rates		1948	
2 month	100-105 1/2	3 month	100-105 1/2
4 month	100-105 1/2	6 month	100-105 1/2
8 month	100-105 1/2	1 year	100-105 1/2

Interest Rates		1948	
1 month	100-105 1/2	3 month	100-105 1/2
4 month	100-105 1/2	6 month	100-105 1/2
8 month	100-105 1/2	1 year	100-105 1/2

First Finance House Rates		1948	
1 month	100-105 1/2	3 month	100-105 1/2
4 month	100-105 1/2	6 month	100-105 1/2
8 month	100-105 1/2	1 year	100-105 1/2

## Recent Issues

Sir Call Exp Ord (150)	1-2-3
Standard Cons 1200 (15)	8
Challenger Corp PT	100
Edwards L. C. S. C. 14 (2)	100
Lauchner 1200 (150)	100
Challenger 1200 (150)	100
Memorial Mining 100	100
House Farm 100 (150)	100
Mid Minn Wt 100, Rd 1200 (1500)	100
Oakwood Exp Ord (150)	100
Peelco 1200 (150)	100
Treasury 1200 (150)	100

Medication	First date of use
Medication	First date of use

Hybrids 1984-85	Parent	220 ppm-2
Hiroshi and Alison (123)		41 ppm-2
Jeffrey and Capelli (108)	Jul 5	10 ppm-1
Land and Lewis (252)		268 ppm
Linda and Scott (126)	Aug 8	

Lease price in parentheses. \* 1/2 dividend.  
 Leased by lender. \* All paid. a 750 paid, b 250  
 paid, c 220 paid, f fully paid, g 50p paid, h 100  
 paid, i 150 paid.

## Foreign exchange report

Sterling spent a very quiet session but was able to close near its best level of the day with a 35 point gain at \$2.3330 compared with \$2.2955 overnight.

The pound's trade-weighted index however slipped slightly at the final calculation of 73.4 from 73.5 overnight. Speculation about a cut tomorrow in MLR although not given much credence in the market kept the pound subdued around or below its overnight level for most of the session.

## Sterling Spot and Forward

[illegible]

## Sterling: Other Markets

Argentina	2,000,000,000
Bahrain	9,200,000
Finland	6,400,000
Greece	99,200,000
Hong Kong	21,400,000
Iran	not available
Israel	6,000,000
Malaysia	4,700,000
Mexico	22,000,000
New Zealand	2,000,000
Saudi Arabia	7,000,000
Singapore	4,000,000
South Africa	1,700,000

### EMS European Currency Rates

	LCU central rate	currency against LCU	% change from central rate	% change, adjusted	d.a.v. annual plus
Bolivia franc	26.538	49.2224	+1.89	+0.19	1.1
Brazilian cruzeiro	1000	2.30374	-0.14	-0.14	1.1
Colombian peso	4.2213	1.481	-0.46	-0.46	1.1
Costa Rican franc	5.1700	2.3949	-0.83	-0.83	1.1
Ecuadorian sucre	1000	2.39399	-0.82	-0.82	1.1
Guatemalan quetzal	6.26/100	0.66767	+0.02	+0.3	1.1
Indian rupee	158.79	1.28/63	-0.62	-1.22	4.0

\* d.a.v. refers to the R.O. Therefore positive change denotes devaluation and negative adjustment for the central bank of the LCU, and for the firm's value difference between the LCU and the dollar, as recalculated by the firm.

## Gold

Gold fixed: am. \$372.50 an ounce, pm. \$372.50  
 price, \$375.50.  
 Kingstrand per cent: \$27.65 12/68.25-  
 26.33.  
 Sovereign new: \$175.54, \$25.66.

## Euro-\$ Deposits

1 call, 72-52; seven days, 82-1-84-11  
month, 82-1-84; three months, 82-1-8; six mo  
82-1-84

# Commodities

[illegible][illegible]

—Cash, £2,710-20; per tonna:  
6 months, £2,775-80. Sales, 108  
tons (mainly carboys). Morning-  
ton, £2,710-20; three months  
765-75. Settlement, £2,720. Sales,  
1 tonna.

## CRA denies Japanese involvement

Tokyo, June 18

Australia (CRA) has denied reports in Australia that it is seeking Japanese involvement in a A\$500-m project to open up new iron ore developments in Western Australia.

Deputy chairman of CRA, M Russel Madigan, said that his company has no specific proposal to make to the Japanese on iron ore development in the Pilbarra region, nor has CRA any direct ownership of any mineral tenements in the region.

Mr Madigan, here with CR chairman, Sir Roderick Carnegie, for talks with steel industry officials, said however the company had suggested the Japanese steel mills examining developing in the longer-term a major new railway line and port to tap further iron ore reserves in the region.

Mr Madigan said the areas of interest lie between the Hamersley and Mount Newman mines in the north of Western Australia.

## Wall Street

New York, June 18.—Stocks continued to decline in active trading on the New York Stock exchange today. The D-J industrial average lost four points and blues led advances seven to

the southland royalty jumped to 101 on top of a 19 point gain yesterday. It will form two trusts for distribution to its shareholders and will share in production royalties and provide a huge tax credit to corporate shareholders.

Yesterday, Mr John Smith of Westbury and Company said there is a lot of wishful hoping the market will go down because there is so much money on the sidelines. With - interest rates as they are total returns on shares are quite generous."

Michael Metz of Oppenheimer and Company said strength in the glammers and blue chips reflects institutional interest in the market. "He added they are waiting for the market to rise (to create a buying opportunity) and refuses to do so."

Other glammers and blue chips, including IBM rose 11 to 60, Kodak rose 38, Exxon 2 to Esmark 2 to 342, Western Union 11 to 223, Sears Roebuck 2 to 56, American Home Products 2 to 29, Du Pont 2 to 423 and Chemical 2 to 35. Volume on American Telephone rose 33 to 33,000, to pay 100m in damages to MCI Communications in an antitrust suit.

## US commodities

ER prices closed 25 to 25 cents  
with spot June at \$15.74 and  
Floor brokers said the advance  
into new buying from specula-  
tors had been the main reason  
A market in gold was weak  
with futures prices noted. June  
900.00; Aug 1,638.00; 1,625.00; Oct  
1,620.00; Dec 1,670.00; Feb 1,697.00;  
1,724.00; June 1,751.00; April  
905.00; 1,635.00; Aug 1,640.00;  
905.00; 1,657.00.

1. Futures were: NY COMEX,  
5399.00; July, \$601.80; Ana.

00-607.00	Dec.	\$617.00-617.50	1
\$627.01-628.50	Feb.	\$636.50-640.00	1
\$647.50	June	\$658.40-660.00	1
00-00	Dec.	\$679.70-680.00	1
\$701.40	April	\$871.40-872.00	1
1300	June	\$601.00-601.50	1
00	Sept.	\$611.00-612.50	1

00: Jan.	\$534.00	bid:	March.	
00: April	\$650.00	bid:		
<b>COPPER</b> futures closed a				
traded session up 1.33 to 0.90				
June	85.25c:	July	86.10-86.40c:	179
86.25c:	Sept.	87.50-87.70c:	Dec.	88.00c:
89.30c:	Jan.	89.00c:	March.	89.00c:
91.50c:	July	92.70c:	July	94.10c:
95.50c:	Dec.	97.60c:	Jan.	98.00c:
<b>OLD SUGAR</b> futures closed 0.79 to				
cents net lower - Feb. 0.79 1/2c				

Sept.	34.10-34.20c	Oct.	34.10-34.20c	
35.20c	Jan. 39.50	Feb.	36.30c	
March	36.35-36.50c	May	36.35-36.50c	
35.80c	July	39.00-39.10c	acted	
Oct.	34.00-34.05c	Nov.	34.00-34.05c	
Dec.	34.00-34.05c	high	34.00-34.05c	
Oct.	71.25-71.50c	Dec.	70.70-70.75c	
March	72.10c	May	72.25-72.30c	
35.00c	asked	July	73.50	
asked	Oct.	76.00	asked	
asked	Dec.	76.60	asked	
asked	Jan.	76.60	asked	
asked	July	179.50-180.75c	Sept.	179.50-180.75c
asked	Dec.	186.85c	March	178.25-178.50c

## Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]

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## £6,000 plus Appointments

MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE — SALES & MARKETING — ADVERTISING — COMPUTING — FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY — UK & OVERSEAS

# EXPLORATIONISTS/GEOPHYSICISTS Calgary, CANADA.

Due to significant and continuing exploration and development activities throughout Canada, Petro-Canada is seeking experienced, imaginative geophysicists to undertake challenging opportunities within the Exploration Division.

These Calgary-based positions will provide career-oriented individuals with the opportunity to expand their scope in domestic and international areas to allow meaningful exposure to be gained in the company's exploration activities. More specifically, candidates will utilise necessary skills in solving geophysical problems with varying degrees of complexity. This will involve the integration of all geophysical disciplines and, where pertinent, the application of geologic data and principles.

Petro-Canada offers a highly competitive remuneration and benefits package in conjunction with the opportunity to participate within an active and innovative environment. Relocation assistance will be offered.

Consideration will be given to those applicants who possess a post-secondary education in earth sciences with five to fifteen years' petroleum industry experience.

If you wish to participate in Petro-Canada's successful future, please send a C.V. in strictest confidence to:

**Mr. Gerri Maureau, Regional Geophysicist  
PETRO-CANADA c/o The Canadian High Commission  
Immigration Section, 38 Grosvenor Street  
London W1X 0AA, England.**

Interviews will be conducted the week of June 23, 1980.

## MANAGER International Relations

(1) The General Council of British Shipping is the trade and employers association of the British shipping industry. The Foreign Shipping Policy Division has a vacancy for a Manager.

(2) The task of the Division is to advise British shippers on the effects of legislative, administrative and commercial measures in foreign countries and international bodies, and to consider, together with other shipowner associations and the British Government, how the interests of the British shipping industry can be maintained and developed. The Manager, who will report to the Director, will be responsible for half the Division's work and will be specially concerned with developments in the United States and the EEC. He/she will also have secretarial responsibilities for appropriate committees of the GCBS.

(3) Clarity of expression, both orally and in writing and the capacity and presence to appear on behalf of the GCBS at meetings with Government and international shipping gatherings is essential. A University degree or equivalent professional qualification (e.g. the Bar) is highly desirable. Previous experience of shipping would be helpful but not essential. The Public Services, legal profession or an administrative career in business could provide the appropriate background. A knowledge of languages is not necessary but some facility, particularly in French, would be regarded as an additional qualification.

(4) The salary will be appropriate to the appointment which will be permanent, pensionable, and based in London. Candidates under the age of 30 are unlikely to have the necessary experience.

**BRITISH SHIPPING**

## District Forest Officer II £7,000-£8,100

Closing date: 14 August 1980  
Job Ref. 58 1480/T Tel ext 256  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (NI)  
FOREST SERVICE

Applicants must:

- possess a degree in Forestry and, preferably, be not over 30 years of age on 31 December 1980; or
- have extensive practical experience of State Forestry operations in the British Isles.

Exceptionally, applications may be accepted from suitably qualified graduates over the age limit who have specialised experience.

Applicants must be prepared to serve anywhere in Northern Ireland and also be in possession of a current driving licence, or be prepared to obtain one, and have the use of a car for official purposes.

Those hoping to obtain the requisite qualifications during 1980 may also apply.

Starting salary will be related to qualifications and experience. Successful candidates will normally be placed on a graduate/professional entry point on the scale £5,645-£8,100 before progressing to the main scale indicated above.

The post is open to both men and women. Please write or telephone for an application form (using the extension number indicated and quoting the job reference) to the Civil Service Commission, Science House, Upper Booterstown Road, Belfast BT4 5NR (telephone Dundonald 4585). Completed forms must be returned to arrive not later than the closing date stated.

## NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE

St Thomas' Health District (Teaching)

## Administrator— Diagnostic and Scientific Services

Scale 20 £8,785-£10,702 inclusive

Following the promotion of the last holder of this post we have a vacancy for a senior person to be administratively responsible for the Diagnostic & Scientific Services of the District including the Rayne Institute Services of the District Endowment Committee. The person appointed will have a key role in both the operational activity and planning of these services, in an active teaching and research environment.

For further information contact Mr J. L. W. Elcombe, the present holder, on 01-223 9222, ext 3094. Application form and job description available from Senior Personnel Officer (Ext. 2422), St Thomas' Health District, London SE1.

Closing date 7th July, 1980.

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS FOUNDATION PERSONNEL OFFICER

Starting Salary £6,518 p.a. inc.

This national community work organisation, employing staff at various locations throughout the U.K., invites applications for the above post based at its North London headquarters.

Applicants must have a minimum of two years' broad based experience in all aspects of personnel work, together with experience in the use of employment and industrial relations legislation. Experience in the public and/or voluntary sector would be an advantage. Associate membership of the IFM is desirable.

Job description and application form: Pat Connolly, Community Projects Foundation, 60 Highbury Grove, London, N5 2AG. Tel. 01-226 3375. Closing date 5th July, 1980.

## THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE OF GREAT BRITAIN DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for the above post which will become vacant in the Autumn due to Retirement. The successful applicant will co-ordinate and spearhead the representation at home and abroad of the Forestry Sector of the U.K. Forest Industry under the Chairman. The salary and conditions are open to negotiation. Candidates of first-class ability and proven initiative, preferably with experience of the Government machinery and knowledge of the media are asked to write in confidence with curriculum vitae including current salary and the names of two previous employers to whom reference may be made, to:

**The Director,  
The Forestry Committee of Great Britain,  
Agriculture House,  
Knightsbridge, London, S.W.1.**

## BUSINESSES FOR SALE

## SMALL WELL ESTABLISHED BUSINESS FOR SALE

(Near Stevenage, Herts.)

Glassware engraving and enamelling factory unit with adjacent high-quality retail shop outlet and office accommodation.

Initial enquiries should be made to  
**A. J. BARRATT  
P.O. Box 207,  
128 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.**

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA.** Electronics company in Western Australia currently involved in all aspects of the electronics industry, including manufacturing and systems engineering, is looking for investment in the form of capital or management. The company has a number of projects in progress and is seeking a partner with a background in electronics and business management. For details, contact: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100/101, 102/103, 104/105, 106/107, 108/109, 110/111, 112/113, 114/115, 116/117, 118/119, 120/121, 122/123, 124/125, 126/127, 128/129, 130/131, 132/133, 134/135, 136/137, 138/139, 140/141, 142/143, 144/145, 146/147, 148/149, 150/151, 152/153, 154/155, 156/157, 158/159, 160/161, 162/163, 164/165, 166/167, 168/169, 170/171, 172/173, 174/175, 176/177, 178/179, 180/181, 182/183, 184/185, 186/187, 188/189, 190/191, 192/193, 194/195, 196/197, 198/199, 200/201, 202/203, 204/205, 206/207, 208/209, 210/211, 212/213, 214/215, 216/217, 218/219, 220/221, 222/223, 224/225, 226/227, 228/229, 230/231, 232/233, 234/235, 236/237, 238/239, 240/241, 242/243, 244/245, 246/247, 248/249, 250/251, 252/253, 254/255, 256/257, 258/259, 260/261, 262/263, 264/265, 266/267, 268/269, 270/271, 272/273, 274/275, 276/277, 278/279, 280/281, 282/283, 284/285, 286/287, 288/289, 290/291, 292/293, 294/295, 296/297, 298/299, 300/301, 302/303, 304/305, 306/307, 308/309, 310/311, 312/313, 314/315, 316/317, 318/319, 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986/987, 988/989, 990/991, 992/993, 994/995, 996/997, 998/999, 1000/1001, 1002/1003, 1004/1005, 1006/1007, 1008/1009, 1010/1011, 1012/1013, 1014/1015, 1016/1017, 1018/1019, 1020/1021, 1022/1023, 1024/1025, 1026/1027, 1028/1029, 1030/1031, 1032/1033, 1034/1035, 1036/1037, 1038/1039, 1040/1041, 1042/1043, 1044/1045, 1046/1047, 1048/1049, 1050/1051, 1052/1053, 1054/1055, 1056/1057, 1058/1059, 1060/1061, 1062/1063, 1064/1065, 1066/1067, 1068/1069, 1070/1071, 1072/1073, 1074/1075, 1076/1077, 1078/1079, 1080/1081, 1082/1083, 1084/1085, 1086/1087, 1088/1089, 1090/1091, 1092/1093, 1094/1095, 1096/1097, 1098/1099, 1100/1101, 1102/1103, 1104/1105, 1106/1107, 1108/1109, 1110/1111, 1112/1113, 1114/1115, 1116/1117, 1118/1119, 1120/1121, 1122/1123, 1124/1125, 1126/1127, 1128/1129, 1130/1131, 1132/1133, 1134/1135, 1136/1137, 1138/1139, 1140/1141, 1142/1143, 1144/1145, 1146/1147, 1148/1149, 1150/1151, 1152/1153, 1154/1155, 1156/1157, 1158/1159, 1160/1161, 1162/1163, 1164/1165, 1166/1167, 1168/1169, 1170/1171, 1172/1173, 1174/1175, 1176/1177, 1178/1179, 1180/1181, 1182/1183, 1184/1185, 1186/1187, 1188/1189, 1190/1191, 1192/1193, 1194/1195, 1196/1197, 1198/1199, 1200/1201, 1202/1203, 1204/1205, 1206/1207, 1208/1209, 1210/1211, 1212/1213, 1214/1215, 1216/1217, 1218/1219, 1220/1221, 1222/1223, 1224/1225, 1226/1227, 1228/1229, 1230/1231, 1232/1233, 1234/1235, 1236/1237, 1238/1239, 1240/1241, 1242/1243, 1244/1245, 1246/1247, 1248/1249, 1250/1251, 1252/1253, 1254/1255, 1256/1257, 1258/1259, 1260/1261, 1262/1263, 1264/1265, 1266/1267, 1268/1269, 1270/1271, 1272/1273, 1274/1275, 1276/1277, 1278/1279, 1280/1281, 1282/1283, 1284/1285, 1286/1287, 1288/1289, 1290/1291, 1292/1293, 1294/1295, 1296/1297, 1298/1299, 1300/1301, 1302/1303, 1304/1305, 1306/1307, 1308/1309, 1310/1311, 1312/1313, 1314/1315, 1316/1317, 1318/1319, 1320/1321, 1322/1323, 1324/1325, 1326/1327, 1328/1329, 1330/1331, 1332/1333, 1334/1335, 1336/1337, 1338/1339, 1340/1341, 1342/1343, 1344/1345, 1346/1347, 1348/1349, 1350/1351, 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